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Inter-Arab Affairs

Yemeni Arab League Delegate Presents Credentials

NC2605132794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received the credentials of Ambassador Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, Yemen's new delegate to the Arab League, succeeding Ambassador Ahmad al-Shajni, who died recently.

Ambassador Luqman stated that he and the Arab League secretary general discussed several issues concerning ways to resolve the Yemeni crisis and said that the Arab League has resumed its mediation efforts to resolve the crisis. He noted that efforts are being made quietly to resolve the crisis within the context of the Yemeni Constitution. He said: In Sanaa we look at the situation from the viewpoint that a state exists and there are legitimate constitutional institutions chosen by the entire Yemeni people. Hence no party has the right to declare secession.

He described the current war in Yemen as one between the legitimate government and separatist rebel forces.

Asked about Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's readiness for dialogue with the Aden leaders, Luqman said Sanaa has never stopped the dialogue, which continued throughout 'Ali Salim al-Bid's stay in Aden. He called for resorting to legitimacy and constitutional institutions.

Ambassador Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, Yemen's new permanent delegate to the Arab League, was born in al-Hudaydah in 1948 and began his political career as deputy minister of social affairs from 1976-1980. He then became minister of state and secretary general of the Higher Council of Youths and Sports from 1981-1983, minister of municipalities and housing from 1983-1988, and minister of insurance and social affairs from 1990-1993.

Al-Bid's Envoy Requests Reinstatement in League

NC2605133294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—'Ali Salim al-Bid's envoy Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas today asked Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to reinstate south Yemen's membership in the Arab League.

Following his meeting with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid this afternoon, al-'Attas stated that the issue of reinstating south Yemen will be added to the agenda of the League's ministerial council. He added that he requested the League's support in tackling the Yemeni situation. He noted that his current tour of Arab states aims to discuss the recognition of the new situation in Yemen and returning the situation to what it was before May 1990, the date on which unity was declared between the two sectors of Yemen.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party's political bureau, who attended the meeting, expects several Arab states to recognize the Democratic Republic of Yemen soon. He said Dr. al-'Attas will tour the Gulf states after his visit to Cairo.

Al-Dali believes it is unlikely north Yemen will end the ongoing military battles to its advantage. He also denied that south Yemen received military assistance from any Arab or foreign state.

Arab Maghreb Union Urges Halt to Fighting in Yemen

LD2605171494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 May 94

["Joint" statement issued by the AMU Presidency; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] The AMU states—Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Mauritania—have been following with great concern the serious developments in Yemen. The mass destruction resulting from the fighting between brothers—for which the brotherly Yemeni people, above all, are paying the price—is awakening the Arab and Islamic conscience with its ugliness.

The AMU states—while warning yet again of the risks of this escalation that will harm the brotherly Yemeni people's gain of unity, in addition to the disastrous repercussions on peace and stability in the region that will result—again urge all the Yemeni brothers to immediately halt the bloody confrontation, to return to reason, and to act in a spirit of responsibility, so that the way is cleared for dialogue on a peaceful settlement to the crisis in order that history may record it for the faithful sons of Yemen.

Palestinian Affairs

National Authority Holds First Meeting in Tunis

LD2605205994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 May 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The provisional Palestinian Authority held its first official meeting in Tunis. The work plan for the coming period and the appointment of the remaining members of the first governmental team—which is as old as the self-rule—are on the agenda. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Far away from the self-rule territory, 19 of the 24 members of the provisional Palestinian authority—including Hanan Ashrawi, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Samir Ghawshah—will hold the first official meeting in Tunis today under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat.

The transitional government for the formation of the self-rule will discuss its work plan for the coming period and will be sworn in at an official ceremony immediately after the appointment of the remaining members and the distribution of the portfolios.

'Arafat Reportedly Drafting State Constitution

TA2605184794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 May 94

[Interview with French jurist (Jean Marc Vareau) by Eldad Beck in Paris; date not given—recorded, in French with Hebrew subtitles; translated from the Hebrew]

[Text] PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat has launched an effort to arrange the drafting of a Palestinian constitution. The Channel 2 news department has learned that to that end, he conveyed a draft document for the perusal of a French lawyer. According to the document, Jerusalem is the capital of an independent Palestine. Our Paris-based correspondent Eldad Beck heard the details of the constitution from the French jurist:

[Begin recording] [(Vareau)] He assured me that he would honor human rights; that the provisional constitution would ensure the separation of powers, the independence of legal institutions; that it will not be an Islamic state; that there would be genuine equality between men and women, between Muslims and non-Muslims; that Christians and Israelis would enjoy freedom of worship and education. At that point, to prove to me that it would be a state of law, he handed me something that had just been prepared—a proposal for a transitional constitution to be used before the state is fully sovereign.

[Beck] Then 'Arafat plainly told you that this text would be the Palestinian state's constitution?

[(Vareau)] We agreed that since they have physical authority over a defined territory, since they rightfully control a legitimate police force, and since they have the right to pass their own laws, they are practically a sovereign state. That text plainly indicates that Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine, but the Palestinian government that will be elected, that will be appointed before parliament is convened, will be able to decide on a capital in another location in Palestine. Thus Jerusalem will be a constitutional demand, while the actual capital will be either Gaza or Jericho. [end recording]

[An announcer-read report later in the newscast adds: "In reaction to the report about 'Arafat's plan to draft a constitution for the Palestinian state, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said a few minutes ago: 'It is all talk, just like the radio program.'"]

'Arafat Appoints President of High Court

LD2605180094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, today decided to appoint Judge Qusay Othman al-'Abdallah [name as heard] to the post of president of the high court and chief justice.

The decision that takes effect today should be implemented by all concerned authorities.

'Arafat Receives Envoy of Yemen's Salih

LD2605175794 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, this morning received His Excellency Mr. Yahya al-Arashi, the Yemeni civil service minister and personal presidential envoy of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the head of the presidential council of the Yemeni Republic.

The minister put the brother president completely in the picture regarding the situation in Yemen and developments in the military and political arenas.

President 'Arafat stressed to the minister the importance of Yemeni unity and the need to halt the current fighting for the benefit of the Yemeni people and the region. President 'Arafat also emphasized to the minister that he was greatly concerned over what was happening in Yemen and that he was following the situation there closely. He expressed his deep regret over what was happening.

PLO Said Not Yet Decided on Weapons Collection

JN2605185794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] In wake of recent reports about the possibility of starting to collect weapons from Palestinians in the autonomy areas soon, Fatah Central Committee Member 'Abas Zaki said during a dialogue with the press in Damascus today that the Palestinian command has not yet made a decision to collect weapons from the Palestinians in the autonomy areas, especially since there is an armed enemy and weapons are in the hands of the settlers.

Zaki said a PLO delegation will visit Damascus for talks with the Syrian officials and the Palestinian opposition. However, he did not say when the visit will take place.

Zaki, a moderate opposer of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, arrived in Damascus yesterday and held talks today with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and will also meet with George Habash, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation

of Palestine, and Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

After meeting Zaki today, Hawatimah said the DFLP and all the other nationalist and democratic forces will pursue the struggle against the occupation and against the settlers who carry 120,000 weapons. Hawatimah said: That's why we rejected all calls seeking to disarm the sons of the intifada. Hawatimah warned the Palestinian police against crossing the red lines.

Hamas Members' Participation in Autonomy Discussed

NC2605141894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Tunis, 26 May (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Member Dr. Samir Ghawshah has stated that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat is currently making contacts with some members of the Hamas Islamic movement to discuss the prospects of their participation in the Palestinian National Authority Council.

In a statement today, Ghawshah said that the council discussed at its preliminary meeting last night the working program of the authority and the basics of its responsibilities.

Ghawshah added that the council also discussed the progress made so far in Gaza and Jericho and the tasks the council should undertake quickly in the autonomy area.

Ghawshah said that Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, member of the Palestinian National Authority Council, submitted a working paper on the formation of the authority and its tasks, although she had earlier announced her refusal to take part in the council.

Dr. Ghawshah said that 'Arafat has decided to appoint Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, an independent democrat from Hebron in the occupied West Bank, as a member of the council. He will be the 19th member in the 25-member council.

Once the working program is discussed, the remaining six members of the council will be appointed, the ministerial portfolios distributed, and the council members will take the constitutional oath, Ghawshah said.

He expects 'Arafat and the Palestinian leaders to enter Jericho before 5 June, unless unexpected developments occur. He added that the council will hold its first official meeting today after the members residing abroad arrive.

Last night's meeting was attended by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], PLO Executive Committee member; and Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu-al-Adib, acting chairman of the Palestine National Council. These three are not members of the Palestinian National Authority Council.

Induction of Fatah Hawks Into Police Denied

TA2705103294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] The Palestinians have announced that they do not intend to induct into the police force Fatah Hawks and wanted men who are not sanctioned by Israel. Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami', the liaison with the Palestinians, sought to check reports that Uri Magidish's assassins had been inducted into the Palestinian police. He was told that Fatah Hawks had been concentrated in a classification camp, and that those who are found to be qualified to be policemen would be inducted only after Israel approves it.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that the policeman who banned Brig. Gen. Doron Almog from traveling freely on roads in the Gaza Strip has been brought to trial and sent to jail. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources this morning expressed satisfaction about the way Palestinian police roadblocks checking Palestinians at the border crossings with Israel have been working.

Fatah's al-Hasan Comments on Accord's Drawbacks

NC2605180194 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 23 May 94 pp 33-35

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan by AL-SHIRA' correspondent Zaynab Farran; place and date not given]

[Text] [Farran] Does the PLO continue to serve as a framework for Palestinian national action?

[Al-Hasan] Our view is that Israel's chief aim in negotiating with the PLO is to terminate it. Because we represent an Arab-affiliated patriotic Palestinian movement, we are not seeking to abolish the PLO. That would only go along with the Israeli scheme. At the same time, the PLO's current political line contradicts its original aims and charter. For this reason, Palestinian officials opposed to the Oslo agreement are confused and face complex contradictions. Our proposal is this: The first task must be to reform and change the PLO's political line, not abolish the PLO itself. The PLO continues to represent most Palestinian factions and to advocate its abolition would serve Israeli objectives. Our primary duty is to adhere to the PLO Charter while criticizing its current policy and the Israeli enemy who occupies our land.

[Farran] If we think of the agreements that have been concluded and the concessions that the Palestinians have made as representing the end of the negotiations, can we say that 'Arafat is finished?

[Al-Hasan] The interim solution that has been reached is a prelude to the final solution and determines its shape. We in the opposition have lost some points but won others. We have lost because the general framework of

the final solution has been drawn. However, we have made two important gains so far.

The first gain is the growing opposition within and outside the PLO. Major intellectuals and the patriotic press have mobilized our people against the political line pursued in the negotiations. This is why the latest Cairo Agreement was coolly received, unlike the reception accorded to the Oslo agreement and the first Cairo agreement. The people had the illusion that the agreements called for the return of 800,000 displaced Palestinians, that the Israelis were going to withdraw from the occupied territories, and that a Palestinian state was going to be established. This illusion has dissipated.

Our second gain is in our ability to prevent, so far, the ratification of the mutual PLO-Israeli letters, which included mutual PLO, Israeli recognition and offered a pledge to overturn the PLO Charter. We declared that if PLO institutions ratified those letters we would adopt a course other than dialogue. This means we would seek the people's support for more far-reaching measures. The Palestinian people's reception of the second Cairo agreement offers hope that the public response will be even stronger.

The danger lies in the final solution. The result of our struggle against this solution will determine whether in the future we will live in an Israeli era marked by Israeli hegemony or in an Arab-Israeli era that has some form of balance.

[Farran] You suggest that there is a possibility for reforming the political line. Knowing that the second Cairo agreement prohibits provocation [al-tahrid], how do you see this as a possibility?

[Al-Hasan] We do not see the deployment of Palestinian police as a negative development. Nor do we see it as a historic achievement. It is an event with no historic significance. The economic agreement and Israeli hegemony have a negative historic significance, however. We are faced with two major achievements of the Zionist scheme: The political annexation [ilhaq] and economic annexation [of Palestinians] to Israel.

Economic annexation undermines the most important victory of the intifadah. The latter made our people self-reliant in the face of the Israeli blockade. Because of the intifadah, our people developed their agricultural and industrial resources. Under the intifadah, agricultural production went up 11 percent and industrial production by 4 percent.

The recent economic agreement, however, restored economic interdependence because it treated the West Bank, Gaza, and the land occupied in 1948 as one open trade zone with one tariff system. With some exceptions, the tariff system is basically unified. Economic interdependence does not lead to independence but to closer unity.

Political annexation is clearly manifested in the tasks of the legislative council that will be elected. The recent Cairo agreement states that the legislative council will examine bills referred to it by a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee. Once the council makes a decision, the bill will be referred back to the committee. If Israel agrees, it will go into effect, otherwise it will be overruled.

Several matters will be decided upon in the near future. Most important of these is the future of the land. This will be a test of whether economic and political annexation will be temporary or permanent. The issue of land and the issue of Jerusalem and its future are matters that will shape the final settlement.

We have to prepare ourselves to fight the battle concerning the final settlement on the following principles:

First, we should resist the economic annexation introduced by the Paris agreement. The agreement involves practical measures and we should call on our people to resist this annexation.

Secondly, we should resist political annexation. The agreement says that the Israelis and Palestinians on one hand will meet with the Jordanians and Egyptians on the other hand to discuss ways of promoting cooperation. This means that Palestinian relations with the Arabs have become an Israeli-Palestinian, not a Palestinian, matter.

Furthermore, Israel does not want to withdraw from the West Bank. It wants to legitimize its presence in the West Bank through a Palestinian-Israeli agreement that would keep the Israeli Army in the West Bank as an allied army. We seek to unite Palestinian and Arab efforts to prevent Israel from taking the land. We want to reverse the imminent military annexation.

We have to understand that we will only defeat the Oslo agreement through defeating the Israeli concept of a final settlement, that is, through establishing economic unity between Palestine and Jordan first and then between Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq.

[Farran] You still hope that 'Arafat, despite all the concessions he made, will lead the battle for a final settlement?

[Al-Hasan] The Palestinian people and their political forces are divided. The split appears in every Palestinian organization. Therefore, I think that we should not waste time on secondary issues.

[Farran] Such as?

[Al-Hasan] Such as discussing the pattern in which Palestinian decisions are made, because this pattern will not change. Not that we support this pattern, of which I am one victim. But focusing on this issue will not do us much good. The battle for the land, however, can rally the people. Defending the land, defending Jerusalem and the right of return, staying firm on matters that fire up the people, these are matters that will rally the people

and entice them to defend their rights. For example, the farmers in the al-Mawasi in Gaza, an agricultural area of 13 square km, shouted foul when the recent security agreement gave their land to the Israelis. The Israelis, they noted, have not taken this area since Gaza was occupied in 1967, why should the Cairo agreement give it to them now?

Worrying about the interests of the people makes our movement acceptable. Our battle is to address the people and create new facts that will help our people restore their rights.

[Farran] Would you say that questioning 'Arafat's leadership and seeking to replace him is a marginal issue?

[Al-Hasan] Handling an issue politically, that is, seeking to alter the political line, does not mean marginalizing it. I believe that in politics a marginal issue is one that you cannot settle, even if it is a real task. If we focused on merely important issues rather than actually vital ones, we would be serving the Oslo policy line. The really vital thing is to seek the public's support. The opposition cannot make internal changes because current Arab and international circumstances do not help it to do so. The important thing is to seek the people's support, who will be encouraged by our opposition to demand their rights. I will give you an example. A large number of personalities were invited to the second Cairo agreement signing ceremony. Some 93 of them, including 25 important figures living inside the occupied territories, did not come. The absence of Hanan 'Ashrawi, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Ahmad Rashid, Bassam al- Shak'ah, and Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and the cool popular response to the latest agreement are good signs. They will help us wage the struggle for the final solution.

[Farran] Don't the Fatah oppositionists intend to find a replacement for 'Arafat?

[Al-Hasan] No such thing is being considered.

[Farran] You used to be a nominee to replace 'Arafat. Is this matter still in the cards?

[Al-Hasan] At one time the various opposition forces thought of forming an alternative PLO. There were discussions about its structure and so on. Personally, I do not think this is the answer. What is coming will be worse than Oslo. What is coming is a proclamation of a Palestinian state based on an Israeli-Palestinian military alliance. The Israelis want a barren Palestinian state that will be an economic, political, and military annex of Israel. In articles I wrote I described it as the illusory state. Why wouldn't the Israelis accept such a state? What we must do is alert the public to future possibilities. We must create facts that will prevent these possibilities. I want to raise a basic point here: The battle is no longer between two sides alone because the solution will be part of a regional arrangement. What happens in the West Bank will affect the interests of Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria because the agreement will be general. For this reason, I hope and wager that these countries will have an opinion on what will happen to defend their interests.

[Farran] Which Palestinian opposition factions agree with your views on how to confront the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Al-Hasan] I do not think that there are great differences between me and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]. I also believe that the brothers in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], following their recent political declaration, have only one course of action open. They—together with the PFLP, DFLP, and the PFLP-GC—will have to escalate the confrontation with the enemy, explain the issues to the people, and mobilize them against concessions pertaining to Jerusalem, other territories, and the right of return. They must turn the confrontation into one between all the people and the Oslo policy, not between a group of oppositionists and a group in Tunis.

[Farran] Can you be active abroad or will you return to the territories?

[Al-Hasan] I will not be a member of the authority that is being established, although my name is being proposed. It is not reasonable for me to be part of an authority whose current policy I oppose.

[Farran] You will stay abroad then?

[Al-Hasan] Probably.

[Farran] Is there a deal between 'Arafat and Hamas? What does it call for?

[Al-Hasan] I do not think there is a deal between Hamas and 'Arafat. Nevertheless, it is illogical to allow Palestinian internal strife for two reasons: The public would not accept it and it would serve Israeli interests. The situation in the Gaza Strip is different from the situation in the West Bank. In Gaza, where Israel has withdrawn from 70 percent of the territory, there is a strong Hamas presence and there will be a large deployment of Palestinian police. I do not believe that local conditions in Gaza encourage conflict between the police and Hamas. We must wait and see how things will develop, however. The PLO Executive Committee is sending envoys to all local forces to ensure no infighting occurs and to encourage dialogue.

[Farran] Will Faruq Qaddumi be part of the Palestinian Authority?

[Al-Hasan] The Political Department is not supposed to be part of the authority. Furthermore, Israel will not allow Abu-al-Lutf (Qaddumi), who is actually opposed to the Oslo agreement, to enter the territories as head of the Political Department. He might become part of the Civil Authority and be given another post.

[Farran] Is Qaddumi's name being proposed?

[Al-Hasan] Regrettably, we have reached the stage where Israel is deciding who will enter and who will not. Personally, I do not know what is happening exactly, but I do not believe that brother Abu-al-Lutf will be part of the Palestinian Authority.

[Farran] Does this mean that he is an actual opponent of 'Arafat?

[Al-Hasan] He is among the opposition but has a special way of doing that. He does not agree with my way of presenting issues. I believe that all issues must be submitted to the people to let them know what is happening. I wager on the people and their role in defending their interests. Abu-al-Lutf, who is Fatah Central Committee secretary, has a different view. Nevertheless, he is really opposed to the current policies.

[Farran] Will two Palestinian axes appear, one in Gaza and the other in Tunis? Where will you stand on this?

[Al-Hasan] This is what we began our dialogue with. I do not believe it will happen. We will not adopt stances on behalf of the people. Let the people themselves adopt a stance. Without a definite stance the people will not be able to do anything. Matters are very complicated now. The people are asked to vote in elections, although the autonomy authority in the West Bank will not take over the settlements, Greater Jerusalem, or the large Israeli Army's deployment areas in the West Bank and the Jordan Valley. The Palestinian authority will not take over more than 40 or 50 percent of the West Bank's territory. The remainder, inhabited by more than 250,000 Palestinians, will remain under Israeli sovereignty. Is this not a major problem that requires much thought?

In Gaza the situation is different because the Israeli settlements are border territories, not Palestinian population centers. In the West Bank the situation is very entangled and the implementation of autonomy will be plagued by frictions. In actual terms there will be a canton in Gaza, another in Jericho, a third in Hebron and the villages around it, a fourth in Nablus and its villages, and a fifth in other Palestinian populated areas whose status will not be discussed until the final stage. Add to this that an Israeli autonomy already exists in the settlements themselves.

In this complex situation the people will discover that they cannot travel from one point to another and that Israel controls two-thirds of the water resources, which will make it difficult for them to develop their agriculture. In view of all this, shouldn't we explain these problems to the people and invite them to adopt the position they wish to hold?

[Farran] Can 'Arafat go beyond the articles of the agreement and endorse the Palestinian people's will to fulfill his demands?

[Al-Hasan] The question should be whether the counteropinion will succeed in making the Palestinian people force their leadership in Gaza and Jericho to stand by them rather than by Rabin if a dispute develops with him.

If they fail to do that, the people will have their say. We wager on the people. If we fail to develop grassroots support to undertake that task, we will turn into mere commentators on events. Our task today is to find ways to cope with future eventualities. I am optimistic because this agreement bears the germ of contradiction. Welcome to these contradictions. If a day comes on which Rabin says to hell with the agreement, we will have a unique point of accord with him.

[Farran] Then you do not think that it is probable that these axes will develop?

[Al-Hasan] I do not favor a dispute among various axes. I prefer to push the people to take a stance. Hence the role of popular instigation, which is done by confronting the enemy via propaganda, the media, and organization.

[Farran] But the agreement leaves no room for instigation?

[Al-Hasan] The current political line and events have given birth to two or more stances and the process continues. What you call axes I call generated stances. The question is will matters be handled through conflict at the top level? This is what some brothers in and outside Fatah believe.

I believe that a conflict at the top will not stop the Oslo agreement. What will stop the Oslo agreement is doing what we believe will stop it. It is the people who can do that. The conflict among the various stances in Tunis is a conflict within closed rooms that achieves nothing.

Therefore, we have to clarify matters and draw up a plan. Since the agreement bears the germ of contradiction, let us try to exploit these future contradictions.

[Farran] What is the role of Faysal al-Husayni in Jerusalem?

[Al-Hasan] Al-Husayni's failure to attend the signing ceremony in Cairo affirms that he has returned to himself and realized that an agreement was being signed while Jerusalem was still under siege and that in a few months it would become clear that Jerusalem had nothing to do with autonomy. This is exactly what 'Abd-al-Shafi discovered. Al-Husayni is going in the same direction we are. But he is not coordinating with us because this will shower him with curses. This certifies that the opposition has succeeded in turning its words into deeds to the extent that the leaders who are living among the people are now obliged to take the popular stance into consideration in their areas, without having to pay much tribute to Tunis.

The growth of these powers and figures will prompt us to bolster them and demand a popular referendum on the issues they raise.

[Farran] Can 'Arafat rule democratically?

[Al-Hasan] Personally, I do not believe the Palestinians are being offered a democratic rule. I therefore refuse to discuss the issue of Palestinian agricultural and industrial development as long as there is an occupation. I think that the most serious thing that the Palestinians were lured into was discussing these issues under occupation.

For instance, elections will be held to guarantee democracy for the Palestinian people according to the Oslo agreement. I want elections that ensure my right to self-determination; I do not want elections for democracy. What kind of democracy is that exercised under occupation? Therefore, we have to focus on the central issue of ending the occupation before we discuss things like agricultural or industrial development. Development under occupation consecrates the idea of integration with the occupation.

[Farran] You don't support the elections?

[Al-Hasan] Elections under occupation will not achieve their goal. If the council that will be elected will only discuss the decisions referred to it, it will not be completely sovereign. I am not opposed to the principle of elections. I believe in democracy and in the people's right and their rule. I believe that an expanded parliament has the final say, but we must obtain sovereignty. I will not state my final view of the elections until after the elections law that is being discussed in Washington has been endorse .. If a party is deprived of participation in the elections because it was not a party to the Oslo talks, we will then state our stance on these undemocratic elections. This is because, as we have seen today, to be released from jail a detainee must sign a paper affirming his agreement on the Oslo talks and pledging not to carry out terrorist operations. So what is this independence, democracy, and freedom of expression? In this respect I support the appointment of all members of the Palestinian authority from inside [the occupied territories].

[Farran] You were threatened with dismissal from the Central Committee at its latest meeting in Amman. Have you prepared yourself for such a situation?

[Al-Hasan] My dismissal was discussed and I was surprised at the number of those who defended me and rejected this measure against me inside the Central Committee. Since I enjoy this great support, there is no fear. I do not think of this issue.

[Farran] Do you think of establishing a legal office as Hanan 'Ashrawi has done?

[Al-Hasan] I greet my brothers in the Legal Committee that was formed by important figures. We have full confidence in them and that they will defend Palestinian human rights.

[Farran] Can the self-rule authority control the contradictions in the situation and how?

[Al-Hasan] We believe that it will not be able to control the situation because it is overlapping. The Israelis phased the negotiations to enmesh the Palestinian Authority in these contradictions so that they may impose new conditions because they do not want to leave the West bank. In addition, the size of the opposition inside [the occupied territories] is large and reaches 60 to 90 percent.

[Farran] Which organizations inside [the occupied territories] are more embarrassing to Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Hasan] Fatah first and then the Islamic trend represented in "Hamas" and "al-Jihad." Both these groups are organized and perform social work in addition to confronting the occupation. It is no coincidence that they managed to gain support from other forces. However, we will compete with them and try to restore our positions. Let the rivals compete.

[Farran] If you believe that the concessions that 'Arafat has made violate the logic of the revolution and of Palestinian rights, do you think this justifies a call for his trial, given these concessions and the U.S. and Israeli statements that his personality is moody and unbalanced?

[Al-Hasan] I will not answer this question because it is useless.

[Farran] Do you believe that the United States has a replacement for 'Arafat?

[Al-Hasan] I have no answer.

Quray' on National Authority, 'Arafat's Health

JN2605161694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 May 94

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', member of the Palestinian National Authority, in Tunis, by Sa'id Mu'addi in the studio; date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Ahmad Quray', Abu-al-'Ala', member of the Palestinian Authority, good evening.

[Quray'] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Abu-al-'Ala', when will the Palestinian National Authority meet? What is on the agenda?

[Quray'] Meetings started yesterday. Meetings will discuss a big agenda to fill all vacancies in administrations and distribute missions and responsibilities to members of the Palestinian National Authority. Meetings will discuss the setting up of a bureau for auditing and financial and administrative supervision, to coincide with the start of the work of this authority, and to underline the principle of accountability and openness to the masses of our people. Also, the agenda includes the

subject of following up the negotiations and setting up the committee charged with following up negotiations in the civil, security, and economic fields. All these issues have been addressed. Discussion will continue today. The meetings' agenda includes setting a date for the return of the Palestinian leadership and the members of the Palestinian National Authority to Gaza and Jericho.

[Mu'addi] When will Yasir 'Arafat arrive in Gaza, or Jericho?

[Quray'] Brother President Yasir 'Arafat will soon arrive at the head of the Palestinian National Authority.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Abu-al-'Ala', have all members of the Palestinian National Authority been appointed?

[Quray'] Almost. The number appointed is enough to assume all responsibilities and tasks. There will be consideration of some brothers. We think these names will be complete soon.

[Mu'addi] How many members have been appointed thus far?

[Quray'] Around 18 people have been appointed thus far.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Abu-al-'Ala', many challenges are facing the new Palestinian Authority. What are the priorities?

[Quray'] Two issues constitute the principal challenges to our people. A third issue constitutes the major challenge regarding Israel. With our people, we are required to achieve security in a democratic, healthy, and sound atmosphere in order to provide the stability needed for development. The second challenge is to create job opportunities, and the economic development projects that can provide job opportunities and achieve the prosperity our people seek. These are two issues we must tackle for the sake of our people. The third issue concerns completing the preparations for the negotiations for the next phases, since the agreement stipulates phases and gradual action, and so we can complete one phase and move to the next after we have established ourselves in a correct and sound way and created some confidence with the other party.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Abu-al-'Ala', the Palestinian Authority will, as of next month, start dispensing the wages of the employees in Gaza and Jericho and the wages of the members of the Palestinian police. Do you have any money in the coffers?

[Quray'] In fact, the coffers are still at the hands of the Civil Administration and the Israeli Government and the Israeli Finance Ministry. The money has not been received by the Palestinian National Authority. This is undoubtedly an Israeli responsibility, and also a responsibility of the world and the World Bank. This authority should not be dealt with in accordance with the old Arab proverb: He threw him in the water and then told him, careful, careful, do not get wet. This authority has major and difficult responsibilities. It is the responsibility of the world community to help it. It is Israel's responsibility to fulfill its commitments. The dues remaining from the taxes and tariffs, as well as other old dues, must be transferred immediately so that this authority can fulfill its tasks without trouble. The Authority cannot possibly stand by idly without being able to pay wages or pay for its own expenses.

[Mu'addi] One last question, Mr. Abu-al-'Ala': It has been reported that Yasir 'Arafat recently fell ill and was admitted to the military hospital in Tunis. What is Mr. 'Arafat's health condition these days?

[Quray'] I can confirm that these were very normal tests. He is in very, very good health. I can confirm this.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ahmad Quray', Abu-al-'Ala', in Tunis, thank you very much.

[Quray'] Thank you.

EU Agrees to Grant Gaza City $500 Million

NC2605135194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Rafah, 26 May (MENA)—The European Union [EU] has agreed to grant $500 million to develop the city of Gaza and promote its infrastructure and utilities. Stating this, Gaza Mayor Dr. Zakariya Makki added that this sum is part of a plan to promote utilities and infrastructure in certain Arab, Israeli, and European cities with EU funds totalling 1.2 billion.

Talk Says Israel Aims To 'Confuse' Authority

JN2605121494 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 May 94

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] As customary, Rabin's government has once again resorted to procrastination. It is trying to impose its concept [word indistinct] the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and its articles in a manner that serves only its interests, as if the agreement is just to throw dust in the eyes and a cover for Israeli [word indistinct] to continue controlling the situation on the ground and the Palestinian people, thus violating the articles of the agreement, its annexes, and the symbols of Palestinian sovereignty it contains, including the National Authority and its power to run the Palestinian affairs in accordance with the Palestinian interest.

Undoubtedly, the aim of Rabin's government is to abort the agreement and render it empty and lifeless. This is a first step toward circumventing the Palestinian national achievements [word indistinct].

Commitment and pledge to implement the agreement—any agreement—is, according to sound logic, not for one party only, because the agreement is between two parties and is applied equally on both sides.

The Israeli superior attitude which claims that the Palestinian self-rule authorities have a duty to protect the armed settlers and secure guarantees for their arrogance, not only shows disdain for logic, but also demonstrates a series of Israeli violations aimed to confuse the Palestinian Authority and undermine its credibility concerning the Palestinian people, their shrines, and rights in the homeland.

The Palestinian Authority is the symbol of Palestinian sovereignty, and is—in all cases—not concerned with the security of any symbols of occupation in the Palestinian self-rule areas. This authority cannot at all be responsible for the results of the Israeli violations, which cannot be far from the official Israeli policy.

In light of this situation, Rabin's government before anyone else, is demanded to prove its credibility toward implementation of the agreement in letter and spirit. This cannot be realized as long as Israel continues to place obstacles, cause (?confusion) and ambiguity concerning the agreement's articles and [words indistinct]. Rabin's government should also be aware that the Palestinian laws are the only legitimate and logical alternative after the end of occupation. Issuing [word indistinct] laws is a legitimate Palestinian right and one of the symbols of the Palestinian sovereignty that Rabin's government or anyone else cannot eliminate or cancel according to a whim that is far from (?sound logic).

The Palestinian people and their national leadership have been and will continue to be on the alert for Israeli traps, and will continue to maintain their decision-making until victory.

Detention of 'Arafat's Wife's Uncle Reported

PM2605150794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 May 94 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "George Hawwa Detained In Hammam al-Shatt for Making Deals Without PLO's Knowledge"]

[Excerpt] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT; Rome, agencies—Well-informed Palestinian sources have confirm to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that George Hawwa, the Palestinian businessman, has, for the past 10 days, been in a PLO prison in the area of Hammam al-Shatt in the outskirts of the Tunisian capital.

The sources said that Hawwa, who is the uncle of President 'Arafat's wife Suha al-Tawil, is in prison for concluding imaginary deals with foreign companies for the implementation of future projects in Gaza and Jericho without consulting the PLO, the National Authority, or the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction which is the body empowered to make such deals.

The sources revealed that Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO's Political Department and deputy chairman of the Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, was the one who raised the issue and informed 'Arafat of what happened, confirming that George Hawwa, brother of Raymonda al-Tawil, mother of Suha, exploited the fact the he was a relative of the Palestinian president's wife in making these imaginary deals and charging commission for that, claiming that he would submit the deals to 'Arafat later on for his signature.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that 'Arafat ordered the detention of Hawwa as soon as he heard of the matter, and he was very hurt by the attitude of his wife's uncle who embarrassed him by exploiting his name and his wife's name.

Meanwhile, Suha has denied yesterday's Italian press reports claiming that she was about to be divorced. She described them as a part of a defamation campaign to slow down the Palestinian autonomy.

Suha 'Arafat issued that denial through an Arab journalist based in Rome after the appearance of these reports in several Italian papers.

In her statement, she said: "I am in my home near my husband President 'Arafat."

She also denied the reports claiming that her uncle George Hawwa was arrested in Tunis last week on the personal orders of 'Arafat and that he was interrogated. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Envoy of Yemen's al-Bid

NC2605140394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak this morning received Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, envoy of 'Ali Salim al-Bid [former Yemeni vice president]. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Al-'Attas stated after the meeting that they discussed the situation in Yemen. He said: We thank Egypt and President Mubarak for all the efforts that have been made and are being made to end the war in Yemen and to deal with the situation in a way that would ensure stability in the country. He said that he will continue his consultations with the officials in Egypt, the other Arab states, and the friendly states.

Asked whether the purpose of his tour is to seek recognition for Democratic Yemen, he said: What we are interested in right now is to stop the war. He noted that the continuation of the war is a loss not only for Yemen but also for all the Arab countries. Al-'Attas said: We are demanding an end to this war and the withdrawal of the forces to the positions they held before 22 May 1990, that is before the unity. Then it would be possible to conduct a dialogue on all the issues and on the ways to resolve them. This includes the effects of the war and the future of Yemen.

Asked about the statement of Yemeni Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani that contacts are taking place between Sanaa and members of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], al-'Attas said: There are no members in the YSP conducting mediation independently from the party leadership. But there are other national figures, led by Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-al-Shawarib, a principal member of the Dialogue Committee of the national and political forces who earlier held consultations with a number of figures outside the country. When some ideas began to take shape, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih contacted these figures and dissuaded them from continuing these efforts. Whereas, we welcome any Yemeni or other efforts. He said that these ideas have now been resurrected. He noted that they are ready to consider any form of dialogue through the leadership in southern Yemen.

Answering a question about the aid that Saudi Arabia is providing to South Yemen, al-'Attas said: There are many claims in this regard that aim at extortion. But we have confidence in the capabilities of our people, all our brothers, and all our friends who help us.

Asked how the military operations are proceeding now, al-'Attas said that there are many victims because the leadership in the north is involving thousands of our Yemeni people in the war with no consideration for the number of victims. We are sorry for this loss. He added: War is bound to break any ties of love among the Yemeni people. It will also create hatred, problems, and acts of revenge among the people. This war was the first blow to Yemeni unity.

Asked South Yemen's response if the issue were raised in the UN Security Council, al-'Attas said: We indeed prefer raising the issue at the Security Council, which can help stop the war. He explained that when South Yemen made the decision to restore the situation to what it was before 22 May 1990, it sought to protect the disintegration of Yemen into several states. When the situation returns to what it was before 22 May, there will be a time to think and proceed toward the future with complete clarity. He said that in the light of the current situation, the existence of two states in Yemen would be better for all concerned.

Answering a question about al-Iryani's statement yesterday that the northern forces have decided not to enter Aden, al-'Attas said: They are unable to enter Aden. Had they been able to enter Aden by force, they would have done so. They have often declared that they will end the war within 48 hours, and here we are in the fourth week of fighting.

Answering a question about what was discussed during his meeting with President Mubarak, al-'Attas said: I briefed President Mubarak on the situation in Yemen and the president's reaction was positive regarding the need to end the problems in Yemen. He noted that he is currently making a tour of the area, and that he will leave for Syria after his visit to Egypt.

Al-'Attas denied Aden's responsibility for the outbreak of fighting, emphasizing that Sanaa started the war. Al-'Attas then reviewed the developments that took place following the signing of the Pledge and Agreement Document in Jordan and the cabinet meetings held in Aden and Ta'izz to implement the document.

Al-'Attas Briefs Media, Departs

NC2605205794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, former Yemeni prime minister and 'Ali Salim al-Bid's envoy, left Cairo this evening after a one-day visit to Egypt.

In a news conference held before he left, he paid tribute to President Husni Mubarak's efforts to end the fighting in Yemen. Mubarak's mediation is needed more now than ever before to save the Yemeni people from successive disasters, al-'Attas said. He stressed that the Yemeni people feel proud of and grateful to Egypt's president, government, and people. He praised the role played by the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia to restore peace in Yemen.

He said the recently formed government in Aden stresses its desire to stop the Yemeni war without any conditions and is willing for a direct dialogue with the northerners to find serious solutions to the crisis, ones that will take

the interests of the people into consideration. The dialogue should be based on equality and frankness, and the north should not express any reservations about the participants, he said.

Al-'Attas blamed Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the General People's Congress for aborting Yemeni unity. The dismissal of southern ministers and ambassadors means separation, and so does imposing unity by occupation, he said.

Al-'Attas accused Sanaa of going back on the Pledge and Accord Document, which he said "enjoyed the support of all the Yemeni people." He said President Salih declared war against the Yemeni nation, took away freedoms, and exceeded his constitutional powers when he declared emergency rule and unilaterally abrogated all the minutes that preceded the proclamation of unity between the two parts of Yemen.

He said the detention of a number of nationalists and the disappearance of known political leaders like 'Abd-al-Quddus al-Midwahi, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mu'min, 'Abd-al-Habib Salim, and 'Ali Salih 'Ayyad strengthens the conviction that the authority in Sanaa is canceling its constitutional legitimacy.

Mr. al-'Attas said Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's decision to storm and loot homes of the leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party and other parties and to use those leaders as human shields to protect his palace and his tribe from air raids indicates that his acts, including the war decision, were illegitimate.

He said Yemen today is being subjected to a crushing war imposed by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the elements allied with him, with military and financial support from Iraq and Sudan, to implement a joint scheme that Aden is determined to confront and foil.

Asked about the possibility of restoring Yemeni unity if the battles stop, al-'Attas said in his news conference that such an action will not take the form of merger unity as in 1990. He explained that many issues need to be discussed before the restoration of unity, such as relations with Yemen and relations with Arab countries.

Asked about the international efforts being made to arrange a cease-fire in Yemen, al-'Attas said that during his recent visit to Washington he sensed a sincere international desire led by the United States and the Arab countries to end the fighting. He blessed these efforts and noted Egypt's decision in the early sixties not to go to war against Syria when the latter decided to secede from the United Arab Republic.

Al-'Attas ruled out the fall of Aden at the hands of the northern Yemeni forces. He stressed that Aden is a strong front that is difficult to occupy. If the aggression against Aden continues for long, he said, then "we will be compelled to request assistance from the fraternal countries."

Al-'Attas said that irrespective of the results of the current battle in Yemen, it cannot determine the future of the country. He admitted that the northern forces made some gains and occupied some regions, but he described the military statements issued by Sanaa as exaggerated.

He stressed that Sanaa supports extremists and fundamentalists to use them for political assassinations in Yemen. He pointed out that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has not yet signed a draft law on education because the Yemeni Reform Grouping, which is a religious party, is opposing it.

Al-'Attas explained that the recently proclaimed Democratic Republic of Yemen in the south was meant to stop the bloodshed and to prevent Yemen from disintegrating into many mini-states. He said the new state does not need de jure international recognition. He said the government of this republic pledges to work with all national forces to strengthen the foundations of security and stability and to hold municipal elections within one year. It also commits itself to implementing all provisions of the Pledge and Accord Document.

Al-'Attas said this republic is eager to establish strong relations with the Arabian Peninsula countries and with Egypt and Syria, and is now working to restore its right to membership in the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the United Nations.

Paper Labels Israeli Kidnapping 'Crime of Piracy'

NC2705061294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR stresses that Israel's kidnapping a Lebanese resistance leader from his home in a south Lebanese village and transferring him to Israel under the pretext of obtaining information about an Israeli navigator whose plane was shot down over Lebanon eight years ago is an act that no country that respects itself and its reputation would commit. It is a crime of piracy, something we thought Yitzhaq Rabin's government had abandoned.

The paper says in its editorial of tomorrow, Friday, that such acts will apparently remain part of Israel's policy as long as the remnants of the old generation of state leaders, or the old guard, remain in power. We cannot see any country raiding the territory of another sovereign state for any reason, the paper says.

AL-AKHBAR asks whether the United Nations and the Security Council would have [words indistinct] if such an act, which flagrantly violates every law and convention, had been committed by a state other than Israel.

The paper hopes Rabin will think again and ask himself if the kidnapping of a Lebanese citizen, no matter what the charge, merits endangering the peace process, which had begun to bear fruit.

Editor Analyzes Sudan's 'Anti-Egyptian' Moves

NC2705081194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' has revealed that during a secret meeting some time ago, Hasan al-Turabi's group and the executive group in power in Sudan decided to strike at Egyptian-Sudanese relations by adopting 14 anti-Egyptian measures.

In an article published in today's issue, Nafi' notes that the recent Sudanese measures against Egyptian interests in Khartoum are part of this strategy, which is directed against Egypt and its historic ties with sisterly Sudan. He points out that these measures include an attempt to undermine the Egyptian presence in Sudan and to incite the Sudanese masses against Egypt.

Nafi' explains that by taking over Egyptian property, the government in Khartoum wanted to mask the failure of the Nairobi talks to find a peaceful solution to the armed struggle in south Sudan, an issue to which the Sudanese people, stricken by war and poverty, pay much attention. He adds that by adopting anti-Egyptian measures, the Khartoum government wants to focus attention away from the rising acts of opposition inside Sudan, the latest being violent demonstrations in western and central Sudan recently. Nafi' adds that the ruling regime in Sudan wants to cast doubts on the firmness of Egypt's position in support of the unity of the Sudanese people and Sudan's territorial integrity by claiming that Egypt cares about Sudan's unity only because it cares about its interests in Sudan. He asks: Where are these Egyptian interests in Sudan in which nobody has any interest any longer, after suffering poverty and seeing destruction and millions giving up hope of finding food and shelter under this bad regime?

Nafi' points out that the regime in Sudan also wants to hide Sudan's deteriorating economic conditions, which have become a source of ridicule for Sudanese inside and outside Sudan. The middle class, a prosperous class for which Sudan has been famous, no longer exists in the country, where poverty has become widespread and those who can afford to live are members of the ruling clique or key figures in the al-Turabi [Islamic] front who have become top businessmen. To give an example of the bad conditions in Sudan, Nafi' notes that when it took power, the al-Bashir regime said it had come to save the country before a dollar could be traded for 20 Sudanese pounds. At the time of the revolution, a dollar bought 12 Sudanese pounds. Now a dollar buys 500 Sudanese pounds, he adds.

Thus, Nafi' notes, the Sudanese people have failed to catch up with the rise in prices and are leading a bitter life. Some even wonder how the Sudanese people can live under these tough conditions. The AL-AHRAM chief editor says that the ruling regime in Sudan is instigating trouble with Egypt to whip up public sentiment and thereby camouflage the host of problems it is having with other countries and international organizations.

Sudan, Ibrahim Nafi' points out, has been repeatedly condemned by the United Nations for its human rights violations. Eritrea filed a complaint against it with the United Nations over its interference in its internal affairs, accusing it of harboring subversive Eritrean elements. The U.S. Congress is putting pressure on Clinton's administration to take firmer action against Sudan because it has become a haven for terrorist elements.

The ruling regime in Khartoum, with its recent measures against Egypt, also hopes to divert attention from its role in fomenting the current armed struggle in Yemen. Millionaire Usamah Bin-Ladin, whose country [Saudi Arabia] has annulled his citizenship, has set up a state within a state in Sudan. Bin-Ladin ordered his followers in Pakistan and Afghanistan to go to Yemen via Sudan and fight on the side of the northern troops, Ibrahim Nafi' writes.

The Sudanese regime, with the measures it has taken, aims to test Egypt's resolve before it proceeds to the issue of water. But once it gets there it will no longer be gauging reactions. It will be taking direct action that will provoke an equally direct reaction, Nafi' declares.

The AL-AHRAM chief editor concludes his article by saying that the Sudanese regime is swimming against the tide of history. Eighty percent of the Sudanese people know that. They also know that Sudan is passing through a gloomy phase.

Musa Receives Delegation of U.S. Editors

NC2605164794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1328 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received the delegation from the American Association of Chief Editors of Newspapers and Magazines. The delegation includes 14 chief editors and publishers representing some of the major newspapers in the United States.

The meeting dealt with Egyptian-U.S. relations, Egypt's leading role in the area, and the important role it is playing in the peace process to achieve stability and security in the area.

It also dealt with the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis, which is considered a step toward achieving Palestinian-Israeli peace.

The meeting also dealt with the recent developments in Yemen and the Egyptian and U.S. efforts to stop the fighting and restart the dialogue between the Yemeni parties.

Lawyer's Death in Police Custody Examined

NC2505195794 London BBC World Service in English 1645 GMT 25 May 94

[From the "The World Today" program presented by Tim Haynes—italicized passages are recorded]

[Excerpts] [chanting] [Haynes] Chanting and tear gas at a demonstration in Cairo last week. The chants are coming from around 2,000 Egyptian lawyers. The tear gas and rubber bullets were fired by riot police who were determined to prevent the demonstration from taking place. The lawyers were angry at the death of one of their number, 'Abd-al-Harith Madani, who died in police custody. They say he was tortured to death. The Government say he had an asthma attack. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im is a spokesman for President HusnR Mubarak:

['Abd-al-Mun'im] *First of all, we have to say that the lawyers—it's not all the lawyers, it's some group of the lawyers in the syndicate, you know. And they are claiming that he was killed by getting tortured, he was killed. Then this is not true, you know. He got some sort of an asthma attack and he died. That's it.*

[Haynes] Friends of Mr. Madani say he had no history of breathing problems. The Egyptian Human Rights Organization also has serious doubts about the Government's explanation. Karim al-Rawi is its deputy secretary general.

[Al-Rawi] *On the 26th of April, the State Security officers entered the premises of 'Abd-al-Harith Madani and held him there and other lawyers in his offices for three hours, and then took him away. To the best of our knowledge, the next day he was removed to al-Qasr al-'Ayni Hospital, to the prisoners' wing, and died shortly afterwards. The Government maintained that he died of an asthma attack. But eyewitness accounts of the body revealed that there are signs of torture, chain marks round the feet which indicate that he must have been suspended for several hours, and marks on the back and on the chest showing that he had been beaten.*

[Haynes] The Government has accused Mr. Madani of having close ties with the illegal group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, a fundamentalist organization which wants to establish an Islamic state in Egypt. Although Egypt is a Muslim society, it's a secular state which doesn't allow any political representation by religious groups. Al-Jama'ah has pursued a two-year campaign of bombings and shootings against the Egyptian Government. And it has also targeted foreign tourists, putting a sizeable dent in one of the country's biggest foreign currency earners. So what is al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, and why have its members turned to violence? Maha 'Azzam is an associate fellow at the Royal United Services Institute [RUSI] in London and she is a writer on Middle Eastern affairs.

['Azzam] *Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, I think, can best be described as a political protest group that is dedicated to bruising the existing regime. It has opted for the use of violence given (obviously?) the situation in which all channels for political participation and legitimate political opposition have been blocked by the regime, and given what it feels is the use of violence against the group by the regime itself. It is dedicated to the establishment of a state based on the shari'ah. Obviously, it is aware of the economic situation in Egypt and what it sees as the corruption at government level and at other levels, which it believes ought to be weeded out. And it is concerned with issues such as social justice.*

[Haynes] The Government has taken a hard line in reaction to al-Jama'ah, choosing to treat members as terrorists rather than Islamic fundamentalists. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im is President Mubarak's spokesman.

['Abd-al-Mun'im] *I believe the name is not quite correct. You know, they are not fundamentalists; they are not Muslims; they are just terrorists. I assure you that many of them, you know, don't know the ABC's of Islam. They don't recitate [word as heard] anything; they know nothing, you know. And this was proven by the investigation. They are not Muslim. And incidentally, you know, Islam is the religion of tolerance. It has nothing to do with what is happening. Terrorism is another thing. So these people are protecting themselves and claiming that they are Muslims so that they can win the sympathy of the society they are living in. But the actual thing that is taking place now is that they have lost all sympathy with the society. Nobody likes them.*

[Haynes] Although a large number of Egyptians do seem to be revolted by the use of violence by al-Jama'ah, others are reported to have reservations about the level of Government response: Detention without trial, persistent allegations of torture, capital punishment for those found guilty of terrorism, and strong suggestions of a shoot-to-kill policy among the police. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak has a strong interest in limiting the effects of al-Jama'ah's activities. Not only does he want to avoid facing a rising tide of Islamic emotion at home, but his Government's reputation as a solid, influential, pro-Western power in the region is at stake. [passage omitted]

Al-Jama'ah is not the only Islamic group which is a thorn in the government's side. The Muslim Brotherhood is also an illegal organization, but has far more widespread support throughout the country, is more moderate, and denounces violence. It is therefore seen to pose a greater long-term threat to the government. Maha 'Azzam of RUSI:

['Azzam] *I think, in terms of the objectives of either the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah or the objectives of other Islamist groups that are more moderate, there is a general feeling of sympathy throughout Egyptian society for, for instance, implementation of the shari'ah, for the greater*

Islamization of Egyptian society, for greater respect for the rule of law, for opposition to what is seen as corruption at high levels, for closing the gap between the rich and the poor. There are some very general aspects to the cry, if you like, of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah and others more moderate, perhaps, that I think echoes the feelings of many in Egyptian society.

[Haynes] Egypt faces acute social and economic problems. The Government is implementing an economic reform program involving a reduction in the size of Egypt's public sector and an increased privatization program. So far, there have been successes. Inflation is down, foreign exchange reserves and the balance of payments are healthy, and the currency is stable. But any benefits from these measures haven't been evenly distributed. A few rich people have got richer, but the majority have yet to see any change. [passage omitted]

The main groups, the Muslim Brotherhood and the al-Jama'ah, both seek social and political change. Responding to criticism of its involvement in the lawyers' protest, the Muslim Brotherhood has said it's denounced violence and was not to blame for any conflicts. A spokesman went on to point out that the lack of response to people's needs, delays in improving public works, the loss of human rights, and the lack of sufficient guarantees for free elections leads to worry, fear, and a deterioration in conditions. The Government has paid lip service to the idea of political pluralism, but it's drawn the line at including any Islamic parties—a move criticized by both Islamists and secular intellectuals as a lost opportunity to popularize the Government. So why does the Government exclude the religious parties? Maha 'Azzam:

['Azzam]*I think the Government's problem is with allowing any opposition that would truly question the policies of the regime and the Government—whether it had been a secular-oriented opposition or an Islamic-oriented opposition—that question the very basis and legality of those in power or wanted a reform of the Constitution, then the Government would have problems with this.*

[Haynes] Some people feel that Mr. Mubarak's Government is becoming increasingly authoritarian and that any move toward democratization is unlikely. Some observers have looked at the past two years of violence and seen similarities with events in Algeria where Islamic fundamentalists have been involved in protracted violence in protest at their exclusion from Government after winning elections in 1992. But conditions in Egypt are different, not least because of Egypt's long history of strong central authority. But Karim al-Rawi of the Egyptian Human Rights Organization feels Mr. Mubarak is using the current violence in Egypt as a means of stifling democracy.

[Al-Rawi]*The regime has used this present climate of violence as an excuse not to democratize any further and to maintain control and to accuse anybody who disagrees with it, or who asks for accountability, accuses them of being pro-Islamist, of being pro-terrorist, and that is the new phrase now that they use. So those of us who ask for accountability are being accused of being terrorists. And so it's a regime that is entering a stage where it brooks no criticism. And that is a very disturbing situation.*

[Haynes] Following further attacks on a tourist train in southern Egypt on Friday night and al-Jama'ah's renewed call for a holy war last weekend, Mr. Mubarak is left to work out how to stop the violence. According to Maha 'Azzam, his current policy isn't working.

['Azzam]*Mr. Mubarak's policy of treating this problem mainly as a security issue and as a terrorist problem, will not make the problem go away. As we have seen, it has carried on for the past couple of years and has actually got worse. There is a clear advantage to opening up the political system, in allowing, for instance, the Muslim Brotherhood a say in government, in putting an end to emergency laws, and that security police tactics of torture and imprisonment without trial, and so on, are curtailed.*

[Haynes] Those who seek change in Egypt have found few signs so far that President Mubarak is willing to concede any ground to the country's Islamic fundamentalists. Using the argument that if he allowed representation for Islamists, he would have to include all religions and that religion and politics are and should be two separate things, he sticks to the idea of truly secular government. But for Maha 'Azzam of the RUSI, his policy of excluding these groups from a share of power ignores Egypt's problems and points up the need for the very changes he is resisting.

['Azzam]*There is certainly discontent with the economic and social conditions of Egypt today. And I think this has of course strengthened the hand of the Islamists. But it isn't really a reason for their existence. They are not very much a political and cultural phenomenon. And I think therein lies their major appeal. They point to the social and economic conditions of Egypt and the failure of the regime to respond to them as reason why a different kind of regime, and for them, one with an Islamic orientation, may be the answer to Egypt's both political and economic problems.*

Petroleum Minister Leaves for Talks in Syria

NC2505122294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—Petroleum Minister Hamdi al-Banbi and a technical delegation left Cairo for Damascus today on a three-day official visit to Syria.

Al-Banbi said before leaving that he would discuss with his Syrian counterpart, Nadir Nabulsi, ways to boost technical cooperation in the field of petroleum industries and a project for a joint Egyptian-Syrian company for digging and maintaining oil wells.

He said Egyptian petrochemical industries will be exported to Syria.

Energy Reserves Increased 28 Percent Since 1990

NC2405115694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 May 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 May (MENA)—Petroleum Minister Hamdi al-Banbi has stated that Egyptian oil and natural gas reserves increased in the past four years by 1.7 billion barrels, at a rate of 28 percent of the reserve in 1990. We now have a reserve of 7.7 billion barrels, he said.

Al-Banbi pointed out in a statement today that the increase in reserves, which do fluctuate, was the result of a special policy the petroleum sector pursued to encourage investment in oil and gas prospecting and production. He remarked that this policy resulted in the discovery of 70 new oil and natural gas reservoirs, 24 of which have already been placed on the production map.

He added that the increase was also the result of increasing efforts to develop productive wells by drilling intermediary wells, supporting the subsidiary production of water and gas, and the application of advanced technology. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Holds Further Contacts With Yemenis

LD2405143594 Tripoli JANA in English 1424 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, al Maa' [May] 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Successive phone calls were underway throughout the 'Aid al Adhah ['Id al-Adha] holiday between the leader of the revolution and the Yemeni leaders 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid in the ongoing efforts by the leader to bring an end to the suffering and destruction in Yemen. Over the last 24 hours telephone calls were exchanged between the various parties with the leader emphasizing the stance adopted by the Arab world and its revolutionary forces vis a vis division and those who support division. The leader said that it did not suit the revolutionaries of Aden to be in favour of division.

However, 'Ali Salim al-Bid explained to the leader of the revolution the reasons for his decision to break away but also expressed his willingness to search for any way out of the current situtions to restore the unity of Yemen even if at his expense.

The contacts made with 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih revolved mainly around a search for a political solution which would guarantee Yemeni unity, which would bring an end to the fighting and prevent further bloodshed.

Receives Salih's 'Personal Envoy'

LD2605142394 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Dr. Yahya al-Arashi, minister of the civil service (and administrative reform) in the Republic of Yemen and personal envoy of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

During this meeting the envoy gave the brother leader a written message from the Yemeni president which contained the Yemeni people's appreciation of the brother leader's nationalist stand and his initiatives to maintain Yemeni unity.

The Yemeni envoy also briefed the brother leader of the revolution on the latest developments in the situation in Yemen.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Rally in Gharyan

LD2605225194 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2025 GMT 26 May 94

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a mass rally in Gharyan on 26 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers, we meet today with our kinfolk in Gharyan, this historic town. Gharyan has a historic significance regarding the lives of the people. Once again, our voices rise from the lofty mountains of Gharyan. [passage omitted]

Libyan people have now realized the truth of what we have said here brothers. Libyan people, brothers, are aware of all that we have said. We have stated that what happened in Iraq was bound to happen in every Arab country. They said no, because Iraq occupied Kuwait.

We now have Yemen which is being divided and torn part as was Iraq. Did Yemen occupy Kuwait? Come on, answer me, you reactionaries; you the agents of the United States. Why don't you answer this question? This Yemen which is being torn part by U.S. Arab reaction and Israeli plots, did it occupy Kuwait? You claimed that Iraq was torn apart because it occupied Kuwait.

Now, Yemen is being divided, did Yemen occupy Kuwait? We said that what happened in Iraq will take place in every Arab country. This is now happening before our own eyes in Yemen. What is happening in Yemen is a reactionary Arab-U.S. plot so that Yemen will not be a strong country; so that there will not be a strong republic in the Arab peninsula. This is an exposed scheme; Arab reaction has been exposed in this plot. The role of the United States is clear and exposed. Those who received orders from Washington to divide Yemen admitted before the whole world that they were in the United States and received their order there.

Brothers, who can be fooled by these lies? Who can be fooled by these fabrications? The Arab reaction, which is

siding with the United States, is responsible for the destruction of the people of Iraq, the land and Iraq; the killing of the children of Iraq, and the starvation of our people in Iraq. They claimed that they did so because of Kuwait.

Now the Arab reaction, which allies itself with the United States, is tearing Yemen apart bit by bit. It is killing the children of Yemen. What will the cowardly reaction which is allied with its imperialist master say? Will it say that Yemen was implicated in Kuwait, that it occupied Kuwait? We say to the simpletons in the rest of the Arab countries that your turn is certainly coming. Arab oil which is under imperialist control will be used to the last drop against the future, the dignity, and the freedom of the Arab nation. It has been decided to use the last drop of Arab oil which America controls against the Arab nation. The turns of Syria, Egypt, Algeria, and Sudan are coming, just as the blockade and the confrontation that have now been imposed on Libya. [passage omitted]

The partitioning of Iraq will lead to the partitioning of another Arab country. This has now been achieved. This is now the conspiracy in Yemen. They provide justifications for each Arab country which are different from those for a previous Arab country.

We say to the stupid who think that they are safe by being submissive and agents of the West, we say to them that western imperialism, the coward Arab reactionary forces and Zionism, this filthy bloc, are determined to tear the Arab nation apart and to trample down every single inch of Arab land and divide it again into states of factions.

History is repeating itself. It is only here that the voice of freedom is raised. Here in Gharyan the homeland, with the voice of the free people, we say to them, to the old and contemporary Arab tribes who have populated Libya, that confrontation starts here, preparation starts here, and we accept the challenge. We do not bargain, we do not recognize, and we do not give up.

We say to them that all their attempts and pressure to force the free people of Libya to kneel down, are hopeless. We say to them that free Libya, revolutionary Libya will not recognize the enemy, will not yield to him, and will not give up the Arab nation's future. We are prepared to pay with our blood for every single particle of sand.

We are raiising our voice, here in Gharyan, with the sons and grandsons of the heroes and martyrs of the Jandubah and al-A'aqib battles and the historic al-Jabal battles. [passage omitted]

Now you can see everything. The reactionary and imperialist alliance has been exposed. We told you that the United States has controlled Mecca; they refused to believe us. Yet we found Libyan pilgrims barred from travelling on board their planes to perform the pilgrimage; they were forced to use camels because of an order emanating from the United States, Britain, and France. The sacred Qa'bah is now being subjected to an order from the United States, Britain, and France. This is sad. It is sad what has happened to the holy and sacred Qa'bah.

Brothers, the Qa'bah is no longer sacred because it is being subjected to an order from the United States, Britain, and France. It is being governed by orders decreed by nonbelievers and Christians. We now find that the cross is more sacred than the Qa'bah; the cross is more significant and important than the minarets, no matter how tall they may be, I regret to say. The sound of the church bells is now lounder than the voice of the mu'ezzin in Mecca and holy al-Madina. The sound of the bells of Christian churches, the churches of the United States, Britain, and France is stronger and lounder than the voice of any Mecca and Medina mu'ezzin. This is a bitter reality. Brothers, the jihad has become better than pilgrimage, brothers.

Not a single one of those submissive people felt an iota of shame when they saw Libyan women riding camels or walking to perform the pilgrimage, because they were observing a resolution that was adopted by anti-Arab states. They were implementing an unjust resolution that was adopted by the United States, Britain, and France by which they wanted to bring the Arab nation to bow to their will. They seek to put on trial the sons of the Arab nation within their homeland. They also want to try them in the United States and Britain.

We would like to tell them no, and a thousand times no. We are ready for the confrontation. We are ready for any ensuing repercussions for the sake of our dignity, our future, independence, and honor. We are ready for sacrifice. Forward we go, and the struggle continues.

JANA Editor Views Remarks by Clinton Adviser

LD2505154194 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, Al Maa' [May] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The international editor of the Jamahiriyah News Agency commented on the lecture given by Anthony Lake, the national security adviser to the American president, to the Institute of Middle Eastern Policy on the 17th of Al Maa'[May] which reaffirmed the American policy of domination in the Arab region as well as the basis for this policy which revolves around attempts to dominate the resources of the region while guaranteeing the security of the Israeli occupiers who are a tool for American imperialist policy in the region.

The editor said that the comments by the advisor to the American president demonstrated the mad frenzy of the imperialists resulting from their military domination of the world. The editor said that the ideas which came out in this lecture truly expresses the new wave of colonialism, occupation and invasion which has prevailed. He said this showed that there was a dreary future on the

horizon which threatens peace, security and stability and will abort the peaceful process of development of all nations.

JANA Decries Sentences in Trade Center Bombing

LD2605154194 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] It has been announced in New York that four Arab Muslims who were accused in the World Trade Center bombing case have been sentenced to 240 years in prison.

The JANA international affairs editor commented on this sentence, saying: The sentence passed on those four has no meaning other than the destruction and utmost degradation of a human being's humanity and his sense of it.

In this regard, the editor referred to what the brother leader of the revolution said in his address at the final emergency session of the General People's Congress six years ago, in which he revealed the repressive methods practiced in America against human beings and their humanity.

He said that a 50-year-old person in America, for example, is given a prison sentence of 100 years. Since this person knows that he will not live for this period, the sentence is contemptuous of the human psyche—destroying and degrading it—and humiliates and harms that person at that moment when the sentence is passed.

The editor asks where the human rights are that they brag about in the West if these are their practices that do not give the slightest value to the human being. At the very least, these practices can be described as barbaric, savage, and brutal.

Mauritania

Cooperation Accord Signed With Spain

LD2505163194 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 May 94

["Text" of "political statement" read by Mohamed Mahmud Lmohamed Falo, director of the Europe and America Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation—recorded]

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the state visit of His Majesty King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania at the invitation of His Excellency President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, the ministers of foreign affairs of Spain and Mauritania signed a political declaration today, 24 May 1994.

In this declaration the two parties express their adherence to the principles of international law on which they base the relations of friendship and cooperation, and their common desire to continue and strengthen these relations.

The two parties have noted their identical views in regard with the problems of the hour. They stress their joint determination to widen mutual consultation with a view to establishing permanent and more effective cooperation and to contribute to the aspired for rapprochement between the two geographical areas to which they belong. Regular meetings have been planned for that purpose.

With regard to bilateral cooperation, both parties pledge to consolidate, promote, and develop cooperation through economic, institutional, defense, fishing, health, food security, water, cultural, and integrated rural development programs. [passage omitted]

Spanish King Addresses Lower House

LD2505171594 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 May 94

[Excerpts] King Juan Carlos I, the Spanish monarch, and Queen Sofia, his wife, continued the state visit they are paying to our country. The two esteemed Spanish guests' activities this evening included a visit to the National Assembly, where Assembly President Shaykh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba and Senate Speaker Dieng Boubou Farba welcomed them.

During this visit, the Spanish royal delegation listened to a speech delivered by the president of the National Assembly on behalf of the two chambers of the parliament, which convened on this occasion. The Spanish monarch delivered a reply speech, in which he lauded the Mauritanian democratic experience.

Colleague Mohamed Abdallah Ould Amin has a report on this visit:

[Begin recording] [Ould Amin] [passage omitted] In a reply speech, the Spanish monarch, King Juan Carlos I, said:

[Juan Carlos, in Spanish fading into Arabic translation] When we crossed the gates of this wide and luminous Sahara, we recalled Ibn Khaldun, who was of a Spanish Islamic origin and was among those who founded sociology, the creed that reminds us that Mauritania was the offspring of the great Sahara and that it is a melting pot for various cultures, elements, and races. According to Ibn Khaldun, the development of historic events, despite its variation, could be summarized in a simplified portrayal and centers on two different and integral elements: bedouin and urbanite. [passage omitted]

As I address you today, I cannot but refer to these distant sources of our common history because I find them fresh in the memory and appropriate in status. This is because of the fact that the Mauritanian parliament—which represents one of the phenomena of national sovereignty and a legitimate representation of the noble Mauritanian

people—is the fruit of a vital democratic process and is liable to result in a Mauritania with more vitality, freedom, justice, and progress in accordance with its traditions and appreciative of its past generations.

The democratic vitality of your people is the best guarantee to continue the enormous effort that you have made to arrive at a balanced economic growth capable of integrating the people and the cultures in your country, with the respect of human rights according to the preamble of the Mauritanian Constitution. [passage omitted]

Mr. President, honorable parliamentarians, because of your geographical and historical position, you are eligible to become the link between the Arab Maghreb and Africa south of the Sahara. I am aware that it is a very difficult task. However, it is, at the same time, an important incentive that depends on dialogue with neighboring countries and on finding quiet settlements to all differences and on the fruits of the efforts exerted in this field.

On the regional level, Mauritania is considered an active member within the Arab Maghreb Union, due to the energies it employ in this field.

Spain values the actions and initiatives undertaken with the aim of achieving economic integration in this region. [passage omitted]

Spain will support every effort that will lead toward the settlement of the problem of the Western Sahara according to the UN secretary general's peace plan. This will enhance the prospects of regional integration.

Within the EU, Spain will continue its policy, which aims at making Mauritania benefit as much as possible from all the allowances and activities on which the European-Maghreb cooperation is based.

In the various international organizations, Spain will continue its support for Mauritania's strong efforts at modernization in the economic and social fields. [passage omitted]

The foreign ministers of our two countries signed today a joint declaration that consecrated a collection of political principles aimed at consolidating bilateral cooperation in numerous fields.

I am confident that everyone shares the belief in the importance of fulfilling these aims because they include the aspirations for a better future for our peoples as we approach a new century. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Sudan

Government Hails Arab League Efforts on Yemen

EA2605211594 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1743 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Khartoum, 26 May (SUNA)—Sudan has expressed extreme sorrow over the state of affairs in fraternal Yemen and called on the brothers in Yemen to be guided by wisdom and act as friends in resolving their existing differences by way of dialogue and negotiations. Sudan appealed to the brothers in Yemen to preserve their unity which constitutes the only way of emerging from the current crisis.

This was stated in a communique issued by the Foreign Ministry regarding the situation in fraternal Yemen. The communique said the Sudanese Government hailed all the praiseworthy and sincere efforts being made by the Arab League and a number of Arab states towards resolving the conflict and fratricidal bloodletting in Yemen. The statement declared Sudan's readiness to do everything in its power to reconcile the conflicting sides in fraternal Yemen so that Yemen would remain strong in the face of foreign interference and the plots being hatched against it by some enemies and would be able to persevere totally in performing its role among the brothers in the Arab world.

Foreign Ministry Explains Egyptian Property Issue

EA2605212394 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 94

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 26 May (SUNA)—The Foreign Ministry today issued a statement on allegations made by official media organs and the Government of Egypt concerning the directives issued by the authorities of the state of Khartoum on planning and reorganizing the national capital.

It said that these directives affect 16 places, including three properties belonging to the Egyptian Army which should have been returned to the Sudanese Government after the departure of the British-Egyptian occupying force at Sudan's independence in 1956. The other 13 areas were leased to the (?Irrigation Department) and to an Arab-Egyptian company which the government assigned for Egyptian and other resident communities in 1958.

The Ministry added in its statement that these places were unoccupied for a long period and claims that some families were evicted on the eve of the festival 'Id al-Adha are pure and unfounded distortions indulged in by newspapers. The ministry stressed that these directives were routine and also affected citizens, as well as Sudanese and foreign institutions. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Condemns Divisions Within OAU

EA2605195594 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Khartoum, 26 May (SUNA)—Sudan has expressed its condemnation of all attempts at division and fragmentation and the lies of the advocates of the right to self-determination for illusory racial entities.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued yesterday to mark the 31st anniversary of the OAU's establishment, that the anniversary comes at a time when the continent is becoming marginalized as part of the so-called new world order. It called for more solidarity, vigilance, and unity in the face of the conspiracies being hatched against the African continent.

Kuwait

Iraqis Arrested for Illegally Entering Kuwait

LD2705092894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Kuwait, 26 May (KUNA)—Kuwait security sources said today that the Interior Ministry's Coast Guard administration has arrested eight Iraqis on Tuesday [24 May] afternoon after entering the country from the sea in a wooden boat.

The sources added that the initial investigations revealed that the detainees claimed that they entered the Kuwaiti territorial waters for fishing. The sources said that the detainees have been referred to the competent bodies.

Saudi Arabia

Minister on Need To Repulse 'Unfair Allegations'

LD2505134494 Riyadh SPA in English 1248 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Jeddah, May 25, SPA—The minister of information, 'Ali al-Sha'ir held a reception party on Tuesday [24 May] night to honour heads and members of the information delegations who came from various parts of the Arab and Islamic world to cover events of the just concluded haj season. The occasion was attended by Dr Fu'ad al-Farisi, undersecretary of the Ministry for Information Affairs, Ahmad al-Katani, under-secretary and general supervisors of the minister's office, Dr Shihab Jamjum, undersecretary for foreign information and senior officials of the ministry.

Addressing the gathering, minister al-Sha'ir welcomed the newsmen and conveyed to them the greetings of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and congratulated them on completion of the haj rituals.

Referring to the current Arab and Islamic causes and the best means to promote them through various media means, minister al-Sha'ir cited the noble meanings included in the royal speech delivered by King Fahd and Crown Prince 'Abdallah to the Muslim nation during the annual reception ceremony held in Mina last Sunday on the best ways to face up seditions, conflicts and challenges engulfing the Arab and Muslim worlds and he reminded the newsmen on their national and Islamic duty to repulse such hostile and unfair allegations.

He recalled a speech he delivered during the last year's reception party in which he tackled the hostile and fierce media campaigns waged by some malicious and spiteful parties against the Islamic faith, some Islamic states and people in a desperate attempt to insult them, proposals for working out an informational method on basis of the information charter of honour with the aim for facing up the biased and false allegations against the nation and some Islamic states.

Al-Sha'ir expressed delight over the successful efforts made during the year to realise the noble purpose and thanked all fair writers and journalists who tried to confront the hostile campaigns.

Al-Sha'ir urged the members of the delegations to have a close look on the giant and brilliant achievements accomplished by the government of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz at the grand mosque and nearby holy places in the holy city of Mecca and the blessed mosque of the prophet in Madina which were completed in a record span to convey what they have seen to their peoples.

He expressed thanks and appreciation to the various Saudi information bodies and personnel who took part in the coverage of the events of the haj and thanked Arab and Islamic brothers who participated in transmission of the haj rituals through radio and television networks for the outside world.

The gathering was also addressed by Amin Basyuni, chairman of trustees council of the Egyptian Radio and Television Federation, Qurban Alesen, the deputy information minister of turkmenstan who was speaking on behalf of the Asian Islamic states, Khero Zain, the head of the Indonesian information delegation, Mohammed al-Hadi al-Teraiki, director general of the Tunisian news agency who all highlighted the distinguished preparations made by the kingdom, under the leadership of King Fahd, for the haj season and the great services and facilities made for the comfort and security of pilgrims.

They also cited with appreciation the great efforts being made by custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to realise Islamic solidarity and constructive cooperation under the umbrella of the Islamic teachings and his constant efforts to serve the Muslims, their sancturies and just causes on all regional and international forums.

On the other hand, the information delegations which participated in this haj season, expressed the heartfelt congratulations to King Fahd, Crown Prince 'Abdallah, the Saudi people on the occasion of the successful end of this haj season and Eid al-Adha. They cited with gratification to the marvelous expansion and development projects implemented at the holy places in Mecca and Madina as a civilized landmark of the era of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. They also thanked the Saudi concerned authorities for the comfortable means and integrated services rendered for all pilgrims.

'Source' Gives Official Hajj Pilgrim Death Figures

LD2605212094 Riyadh SPA in English 2007 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Jeddah, May 26, SPA—An official source has told SPA that in completion of the statement made on Monday [23 May] by an official source at the Ministry of Health containing initial statistics prepared by Red Crescent and general hospitals in Mecca and the holy places and submitted to the minister of health, and to correct the exaggerations and incorrect information published by some mass media, and after reviewing figures prepared by the Mecca region and the Ministry of Health which were completed on Thursday, we explain the following:

Firstly, the number of deaths reported from the 1st of Thilhijja [month of Haj—beginning 12 May] until the end of the 12th of Thilhijja were as reported previously 829 detailed as follows: A—the number of general deaths in the Mecca and holy places areas during the first 12 days of the month of Thilhijja were 559 including 62 cases of old age, 180 cases of sun stroke, 136 cases of heart diseases, 22 cases of brain vessels failure, 8 cases of malignant tumors, 14 cases of high blood pressure, 27 cases of chest diseases, 23 cases of accidents and 47 cases who died of other causes.

The number of deaths resulting from overcrowding at the Jamarat on Monday afternoon reached 270 cases including 6 Saudis, 11 Egyptians, 2 Sudanese, one Yemeni, 6 Algerians, one Jordanian, 7 Moroccans, 5 Turks, 8 Nigerians, 18 Indians, 6 Bangladeshis, 44 Pakistanis, 6 Indonesians, one Iranian, one Ghanian, one Afghan, one Dutch, one Mauritious, one Denmark and 143 of unknown nationalities until this date.

The names of the dead persons which were found out until Thursday have been communicated to the Saudi Press Agency to carry them through the media both inside and outside the Kingdom, the source said.

The source said hundreds of thousands of people headed for Jamarat on Monday afternoon thereby neglecting the instructions given to them by Mutawifs and broadcast by the mass media over the previous ten days.

He added that most pilgrims raced to the Jamarat to finish this final ritual early even before noon and many of them were carrying their luggage on their backs which led to the overcrowding, the falling of some and tripping of others in addition to the haste by all.

Despite the existence of huge bridges built by the state to facilitate the movement and despite continuous expansion work on the roads leading to the three Jamarat, the large number of security personnel around the area and early warnings announced on loud speakers in various languages, terrible overcrowding occurs at each Jamrah and lives are lost.

The source stressed that if we count the deaths of a city with two-million population in 15 days under normal circumstances, we will find more deaths than the cases which occurred during this Haj season in Mecca and the holy places.

And if we take into consideration the number of pilgrims who performed pilgrimage this year, which is more than 1.5 million people, we will find that the percentage of deaths during this season was a mere 0.05 percent which is a normal one.

The source wondered what is with those who race to defame and doubt everything that the Saudi Government has offered and still offers to pilgrims every year when the Kingdom has spent billions and exerted intensive efforts to provide comfort for pilgrims.

The source said the motives of those who exaggerate the facts and figures and wrongly insult the Kingdom because of their hatred and sickness of the heart which reappears for the slightest of reasons, were known and so are the sides which recruit those hired persons in various arenas who will be sad to hear that the Haj season has succeeded to a great extent, thanks to Allah, and the Moslems who came to perform Haj have done so and returned home safely.

The source concluded that for those whose lives were taken by God while they were performing rituals to him obediently, we ask Allah to have mercy on them, send them to heaven and count them among the pious martyrs.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Meets With Yemen's al-Ahmar

JN2705104394 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 27 May 94

[Excerpts] The President, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, received Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the Yemeni speaker of the House of Representatives, and his delegation in al-Wafrah rest house yesterday. Talks dealt with the current events in Yemen and the tragedy resulting from these events. [passage omitted]

A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry has stated that the president affirmed during the meeting that the United Arab Emirates [UAE] stands by the fraternal Yemeni people in realizing whatever they deem proper and acceptable to them because their happiness and prosperity are the aim for which all must work.

The source added that the president expressed the hope that the Yemeni people will overcome their tragedy and said that the UAE is eager to exert its sincere efforts to stop the bloodshed and will support anything that aims to serve Yemen's interests and benefit the Yemeni

people out of its desire to preserve Yemen's security and stability and protect the Yemeni people's national achievements.

The source pointed out that during the meeting, the president renewed his appeal to the Yemeni sides to respond to calls for an immediate cease-fire.

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar left the for Sanaa today after his visit to the UAE. He was seen off by al-Hajj Bin-'Abdallah al-Mihribi, speaker of the National Federal Council, a number of officials, and the Yemeni Ambassador in Abu Dhabi.

Iran's Proposal on Island Dispute Said 'Incomplete'

PM2605153194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 May 94 p 6

[Report by Shafiq al-Asadi: "Abu Dhabi: Nothing New in Iran's Offer To Settle Dispute over Abu Musa Island"]

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi—Diplomatic sources in Abu Dhabi have confirmed that Iran offered nothing new in its proposal to hold talks with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in a bid to settle the dispute between them over Abu Musa Island.

The sources said that "this proposal is incomplete," and Iran must express its willingness to hold comprehensive talks on the three islands—Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa—which Iran occupied in 1971.

The sources pointed out that, since the suspension of direct talks between the two countries in September 1992, Iran has been talking about the possibility of resuming negotiations over Abu Musa Island. But the UAE believes that this is insufficient and that the negotiations must include the three islands. The sources said that the statements made by 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Iranian parliament, regarding the resumption of bilateral talks "are not serious and are insufficient."

UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan stresses that Iranian calls to resume the dialogue over Abu Musa Island "bring nothing new and are still remote from what we are thinking about."

Shaykh Zayid is urging Iran to refer to the International Court of Justice so that each party can submit its evidence of its ownership of the three islands. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Receives U.S., UN Security Council Envoys

JN2605134294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Last night, Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, received the U.S. Ambassador in Sanaa, Arthur Hughes. They discussed developments in the situation in our country in light of the comprehensive war that traitor al-Bid has declared against the homeland and unity.

The U.S. ambassador reiterated his country's support for unity and democracy and his country's concern for stability and peace in Yemen. The brother chairman expressed our country's appreciation of the U.S. position. He stressed that the Yemen of unity, democracy, and respect for human rights will always be eager to bolster its relations with all brothers and friends, chiefly the United States, on the basis of mutual interests serving the objectives of the two friendly countries and peoples.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development.

Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih also received individually the ambassadors of the permanent UN Security Council states. He received the charge d'affaires of the PRC Embassy, French Ambassador Marcel (le Gelle), Russian Ambassador (P. Chencko), and UK Ambassador Douglas (Gordon). During the meetings, discussions dealt with the developments in the situation in our country and bilateral relations. The ambassadors reiterated their countries' support for Yemen's unity and democracy. They indicated that this is a firm stand that stems from their countries' interest in Yemen's stability and peace. During the meetings, the brother chairman expressed appreciation of the PRC, France, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom for supporting unity and democracy in our country. He stressed our country's eagerness to bolster its relations with those countries, proceeding from friendship, joint interests, mutual benefits, and positive, productive cooperation in all fields.

Referring to the current situation in our country, the brother chairman expressed confidence that brothers and friends understand that what is going on is an internal affair that concerns Yemen, and that the ongoing war ignited by traitor al-Bid against the homeland and its unity is a war between the Yemeni people with their various segments, political forces, and national and social organizations on the one hand and a small clique that has rebelled against the legitimate authority and conspired against unity and the homeland on the other. He stressed that some news media allegations that what is going on is a war between the north and south are unfounded. He stressed that there are over 11 military brigades from southern and eastern governorates now fighting at the forefront of the forces of unity in defense of Constitutional legitimacy, valiantly confronting the rebellious, secessionist gang.

Salih Issues Decrees, Makes Appointments

Appoints Deputy Prime Minister

JN2605182594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 94

[Presidential Decree No. 26 issued in Sanaa on 26 May]

[Text] The Presidential Council chairman,

After taking cognizance of the Republic of Yemen Constitution, at the recommendation of the acting prime minister, in accordance with the requirements of the public interest, and following the approval of the Presidential Council, decides:

Article One: The following brothers shall be appointed to the Council of Ministers in the posts appearing opposite their names.

1. 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Rahman Ba Jammal, deputy prime minister
2. Faysal 'Uthman Bin-Shamlan, minister of oil and mineral resources
3. Ahmad Musa'id Husayn

Article Two: This decree shall go into effect as of the date of its publication. It shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidential Office in Sanaa on 17 Dhi al-Hijjah 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 26 May 1994

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman; Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, the acting prime minister

Appoints New Lahij Governor

JN2605181494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 94

[Presidential Decree No. 27 issued in Sanaa on 26 May]

[Text] The Presidential Council chairman, after taking cognizance of the Republic of Yemen Constitution and Law No. 52 of 1991 concerning the law of local administration, at the recommendation of the acting prime minister, and following the approval of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers, decides:

Article One: Brother 'Abdallah 'Awad Ba Matraf shall be appointed governor of Lahij Governorate.

Article Two: This decree shall go into effect as of the date of its publication. It shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidential Office in Sanaa on 17 Dhi al-Hijjah 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 26 May 1994

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman; Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, the acting prime minister

Appoints New Shabwah Governor

JN2605181894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 94

[Presidential Decree No. 28 issued in Sanaa on 26 May]

[Text] The Presidential Council chairman,

After taking cognizance of the Republic of Yemen Constitution and Law No. 52 of 1991 concerning the law of local administration, at the recommendation of the acting prime minister, and following the approval of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers, decides:

Article One: Brother Ahmad 'Ali Muhsin shall be appointed governor of Shabwah Governorate.

Article Two: This decree shall go into effect as of the date of its publication. It shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidential Office in Sanaa on 17 Dhi al-Hijjah 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 26 May 1994

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman; Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, the acting prime minister

Appoints Envoys to Sudan, Ethiopia

JN2705054994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Two republican decrees have been issued, the first appointing brother Muhammad Ahmad al-Ra'di, ambassador and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Yemen to Sudan, and the second appointing brother Mansur 'Abd-al-Jalil 'Abd-al-Rab, ambassador and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Yemen to Ethiopia.

Socialist Party Members Cable Support to Salih

JN2605174594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, has received the following cable:

We stress our support to Constitutional legitimacy and strongly condemn the declaration of secession. We once again underline our adherence to unity and readiness to defend it.

[Signed] Your brothers, Dr. Muhammad 'Awad al-Sa'di, member of the Consultative Council [word indistinct] the Socialist Party Central Committee; Husayn [remainder of name indistinct], member of the House of Representatives and deputy for the (?129)th Constituency

Salih Receives Cables on Unity Anniversary

JN2605183994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, has received a cable of congratulations on the fourth anniversary of the Republic of Yemen's National Day from South Africa's President Nelson Mandela. The president sent a cable of thanks in reply.

The brother Presidential Council chairman also received two cables of congratulations on the fourth anniversary of the Republic of Yemen's National Day from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Eritrean President Issaias Afeworke. The brother Presidential Council chairman sent cables of thanks in reply.

Al-Iryani on Civil War, YSP, Solution to Crisis

Views Saudi Stance, Current Situation

JN2505094794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 May 94 p 19

[Report on interview with Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani by Nabil Ghazzawi in Sanaa on 22 May]

[Text] Yemeni Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani has ruled out the possibility that Saudi Arabia will recognize the state set up last week by the secessionists in Aden, led by 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Dr. al-Irayni said that if such thing were to happen, it would return us to the 1960's era and the conflict between the monarchists and republicans. I do not at all imagine that anyone in Saudi Arabia wants the situation to return to the 1960's era. Therefore, I do not expect that Saudi Arabia in particular would recognize this state because they [the Saudis] are totally willing to have good relations with the Yemeni people. Otherwise, we would return to an era which the Saudi officials say repeatedly had been an extraordinary era in the Yemeni-Saudi relations during the conflict between the monarchists and republicans. No one wants a return to this era, and I never expect Saudi Arabia to be one of the countries that recognizes this enclave set up by al-Bid. This is because, as I said, they want to have good relations with Yemen, and because such recognition would return us to an era that we all do not want.

Answering a question by the Jordanian press delegation last Sunday on whether al-Bid's state has the pillars of a new state or whether it is stillborn, Dr. al-Iryani said: In fact, two thirds of the land is not under the control of this state. The governorates of Abyan, Lahij, and Shabwah are now under the control of the legitimacy. Certainly, they still control Aden. As for Hadhramaut Governorate, I have no doubt that it will soon be under the unity's control. Distance is the only reason state authority has not so far spread to it. They [southern leaders] have no popular support on the ground. Most of the land and population are under the control of the legitimate state authority. Whoever proclaims a state from nothing will fail.

On his expectations of when this current situation in Yemen would be over, Dr. al-Iryani said: In fact, there is a military dimension, and it is difficult to predict the period required by this dimension. However, I believe popular pressure will have a central role now that al-Bid has proclaimed a state. Therefore, I consider the proclamation of the state a step toward ending the situation. This means that this proclamation is an act of suicide that brings the end nearer.

Regarding Sanaa's response to al-Bid's possible use of chemical weapons—provided they are available to him—if the legitimate forces entered Aden within the coming days, Dr. al-Iryani said: First of all, the possibility that he has chemical weapons is slight, but let us assume that he uses such weapons, he will then be in his death throes. No one in the world or in Yemen would forgive him for this crime or for using any banned weapon. The proclamation of the state, makes the fall and end of al-Bid more pressing and important. As for cluster bombs, I am sure he does not have any.

Asked about President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's remarks on 21 May in which he emphasized development and economic reform in Yemen, and whether that signals a new course, especially after the legitimate troops have control of the entire Yemeni territory, Dr. al-Iryani stressed: Undoubtedly, crushing the rebellion will usher in a new phase in the life of the Yemeni people, consolidating the Yemeni unity and firmly establishing the principle of abidance by the peaceful transfer of power. There will also be a unified central decisionmaking body. Regrettably, our partners from the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] have understood political pluralism as being both plurality of parties and plurality of stands. In other words, they have allowed themselves to be partners and opposionists at the same time. This is a wrong understanding which leads to subversive acts. We have seen economic, political, and social subversion because our partner to the authority is an oppositionist—or rather a subversive—partner. When the opposition is outside the authority, it can only be an opposition. Al-'Attas was the prime minister and an oppositionist at the same time. For example, we agreed with the World Bank on a reform program which was received with broad enthusiasm. Everyone was ready to contribute to the program, particularly Japan, the World Bank, and the United States. A World Bank mission was supposed to arrive in October 1993. Al-'Attas said: Postpone the visit. He did not approve the mission's visit. I personally had to postpone the visit until December or January. World Bank officials said they would come whenever we were ready. This is an example of an oppositionist when he is inside the authority and a decisionmaker. Look how he ruins things. Otherwise, the Yemeni economy would have been on the right course now. This is an unprecedented case.

Regarding the Fattah [after 'Abd-al-FATTAH Isma'il, former YSP secretary general who was killed in the June 1986 incidents in Aden] corrective trend and by whom it is led and what their position is, Dr. al-Iryani said: The Fattah trend is a YSP wing, most members of which are from Yafi' and Aden, as well as northern leaders whom we know. They were major loyalists to 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il. This wing still exists inside the YSP. It seems that they have decided to assert themselves as a wing

with a certain position. They consider themselves Fattahi's, after 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il. For example, Fadl Muhsin, minister of fish resources, considers himself a Fattahi, because his relationship with 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il was very strong. He always speaks of 'Abd-al-Fattah with respect. In addition, his wife is 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il's sister.

On Aden radio's vituperations against him, Dr. al-Iryani said: This is not the first time. They issued a statement before the war which was broadcast over Aden radio and television after the failure of the Salalah [in Oman] meeting. They described me as a warmongering general. Al-Bid personally slandered me and the brother president. This is a sign of bankruptcy. God knows, it never occurred to me that we would reach the point of war, but there was no other choice.

They led us to war. Two weeks before the war, I had the honor to pound the table during a cabinet meeting while they were all present and to tell them that the absence of the defense minister from that session was a war decision. I said this with a loud voice. Some of them like Jarallah 'Umar [minister of Culture and Tourism], al-Salami [minister of Electricity and Water Resources], and Fadl Muhsin [minister of Fish Resources] remind me of this incident now. They neither denied nor objected to my saying that the absence of the defense minister from the session was a war decision and that he did not come because he did not want to implement the fourth provision of the Pledge and Accord Document on withdrawing the forces from the border areas, and that these forces are the fangs the secessionists will use if war erupts.

I am not a war strategist. But I exposed them by saying they were preparing for war. That's why they are angry with me. They keep accusing me so that one day I will not say that I had announced at a cabinet session that the YSP had decided to go to war by not sending the defense minister to attend the cabinet session. I am proud that I was the one to warn against war, and not one of them replied. I told Fadl Muhsin: Brother Fadl, it is a pity if we hand things over to the military, so set your conditions. Another minister, the minister of electricity, replied that there are civilians who are more military-minded than the military themselves, and that this is our problem. I told him: Why hide things? I know you are speaking about me, because you discussed this at a YSP Political Bureau meeting and you decided to accuse me. He did not reply.

Regarding rumors that the YSP ministers are under arrest in Aden, he said: This is not true. They are there and carrying out their duties. But are they doing so voluntarily or under pressure? This can be verified later but not now. I do not rule out the possibility that many of the ministers who are Political Bureau members are under pressure and are being threatened to have them go along with things. I know they do not support the proclamation of a state as this will mean their end.

Regarding rumors that he lives a luxurious life, although I saw him having only yogurt and juice for breakfast, Dr. al-Iryani said: This is what I have been having for the past four years. I do not pay any attention to such matters.

The truth is that the YSP started the war because they expected that fighting would take place on the previous borders for a few days or weeks, after which there would be pressure to halt the fighting and negotiations would ensue while the forces would remain on the borders between the two parts of Yemen. However, al-Bid was surprised to see that the front has collapsed and that fighting took place only 21 km from Aden, not to mention that the fighting also moved to the Shabwah front, which completely collapsed, as well as that of al-'Anad and its being captured by the forces of legitimacy. They counted on the fact that peace-keeping forces would come to disengage the combatants.

However, the tribes tricked him, particularly in Bakil. The military were deceived. I view this as the biggest political trickery ever practiced by politicians against the military. This is because no military man has ever been tricked as those who were linked to al-Bid. Not a single bullet was fired in Sanaa. They told the military that Harf Sufyan, 'Imran, Arhab, and Naham would be set ablaze and that the Sanaa regime would be busy extinguishing the fires in its own house. They told them: We will entrench the partition plan, and you will once again become a state.

Asked why all battles have started on a Wednesday, beginning with 'Imran, Dhamar, and al-'Anad, Dr. al-Iryani said: Wednedsay in the eastern and southern regions in Yemen is an ill-omened day and not one that heralds optimism.

Claims Saudi Involvement in Supplying Arms

LD2605152494 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 May 94

[Excerpts] The Yemeni civil service minister and member of the General People's Congress in brotherly Yemen affirmed the Yemeni people's appreciation of the brother leader of the revolution's firm and unwavering stance in support of the unity of the Arab nation and the freedom of the Arab people.

In an interview with AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR, the Yemeni civil service minister said that the leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had made great efforts toward achieving Yemeni unity. [passage omitted]

For his part, Yemeni Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani announced yesterday that Yemenis living in Saudi Arabia had sent large sums of money to the forces of the splinter group within the Socialist Party in southern Yemen headed by 'Ali Salim al-Bid for the purchase of weapons and military supplies from abroad.

In a statement to journalists, he indicated that Saudi Arabia was involved in this, explaining that a military

consignment worth 5 million dollars was purchased for the rebels in the south by one of the Yemenis resident in Saudi Arabia. He said that the consignment was now being detained at a Red Sea port in Djibouti. [passage omitted]

Says Contacts With YSP Under Way

PM2605143194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Reports by 'Abdallah Hammudah and Lutfi Shatarah in London, Najib Sadiq in Aden, and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureaus in Sanaa and Cairo: "Sanaa Leans Towards Negotiations and Aden Fights to Regain Shabwah"]

[Excerpts] A new tendency has appeared in the North Yemeni command in Sanaa indicating "a willingness to start a dialogue with Aden" with the aim of stopping the fighting between the northern and southern forces as a result of which 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Yemen in the south, ending the four-year old unity between the two parts of Yemen.

That tendency was reflected in a statement by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, planning and development minister and member of the General Committee (Political Bureau) of the General People's Congress [GPC], who said that "contacts are underway between YSP leaders and the government of Sanaa to agree on holding a dialogue." [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from sources of arms dealers in Europe that Jordan has expressed willingness to purchase arms on behalf of the northern forces command in Sanaa after numerous states banned the sale of arms to Sanaa and Aden as long as the war between their forces in Yemen continued. The sources said that Jordan acted in the same way to purchase arms for Iraq throughout the years of war between Iraq and Iran. [passage omitted]

While the intensity of the battles generally eased after fierce fighting on the Kharaz-Bab el Mandeb front on the western axis the day before yesterday, the most important battle yesterday was in the Shabwah Governorate. Shabwah Governor Ahmad Bin-Farid al-Suraymah has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the southern forces have captured the northern part of 'Ataq, the capital of Shabwah, and that fighting was raging in the southwestern part of the town.

In an exclusive telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT via satellite from the battlefield, the Shabwah governor said that the remnants of the northern forces consisting of a Republican Guard brigade, a shock brigade, a paratroopers brigade, and the 6th Brigade "withdrew from parts of the town after their soldiers looted people's property and acted like thieves." He confirmed that the southern forces recaptured several towns including al-Sa'id and al-Musayni'ah after inflicting losses on the northern forces including hundreds of casualties. He emphasized that "the liberation of the Shabwah Governorate will be completed within two days at the most." [passage omitted]

On Military Situation, Political Solution

JN2605093194 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 May 94 p 16

[Interview with Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani by Lamis al-Barghuthi in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Barghuthi] Can we describe what is taking place in Yemen as a popular civil war?

[Al-Iryani] No. A civil war means fighting in every suburb, street, and village in Yemen. This is not the case now. The present war is between military forces belonging to the Socialist Party and other military forces defending the unity.

[Al-Barghuthi] Do you think the perpetuation of war and failure to quickly settle the situation militarily may lead to a protracted war of annihilation in which civilians will eventually take part?

[Al-Iryani] I do not think so because the present military situation does not suggest this possibility. The Abyan, Lahij, and Shabwah Governorates are entirely under control. The non-fall of Aden cannot turn into a civil war in Abyan, Shabwah, or other governorates. People are far from the atmosphere of war; they are leading an extremely normal life. Therefore, I think it is impossible for matters to turn into a civil war. Things now depend on the fall of Aden. I am confident that once the Socialist Party's mechanism is uprooted in al-Mukalla, it will all be over. As you know, fighting is currently taking place only on one front, that is, the Aden front. We are not in a hurry to enter Aden. The "legitimate forces" may enter Hadhramaut before Aden. Our care for civilians in Aden is all that is stopping us. Indiscriminate shelling of the city for 10-12 hours may lead to its fall. It is preferable to besiege the city for a few days instead of bombing it indiscriminately and harming the civilians. We will thus avoid a civil war which the socialists tried to launch. Their indiscriminate shelling of Sanaa with Scud missiles is meant to tell the Arabs and the world that what is taking place in Yemen is a civil war as proven by civilian casualties. They will then call for Arab and international intervention in Yemen to stop the civil war.

[Al-Barghuthi] How do you view the political solution after the cessation of battles and how will you deal with the Socialist Party's leaders and cadres?

[Al-Iryani] This subject has been settled by two decisions. The public prosecutor decided to take legal action against 16 Socialist Party civilian and military officials and ordered their arrest. This was followed by the

general amnesty decree. The way the non-prosecuted Socialist Party leaders behave toward the general amnesty decree will decide the way to deal with them.

[Al-Barghuthi] Will power be shared equally between the two parties as was the case before the war?

[Al-Iryani] At the end of the war, we expect to negotiate with the Socialist Party as a partner to the coalition, but it will not be given any other privilege. Before the war, the socialists were given privileges they did not deserve and this led to the present state of affairs. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Ghani on Military Situation, YSP, Talks

On Scud Attack, Settlement Prospects

PM2605114594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Interview with 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the General People's Congress, by unidentified correspondent in Sanaa; date not given]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] How will you reply to the Scud missile fired on residential areas in the center of Sanaa Monday [23 May] evening?

['Abd-al-Ghani] That was a criminal and cowardly act perpetrated by the gang of apostasy and secession within the Socialist Party leadership. This is in addition to the previous criminal acts. They fired their missiles on residential areas. The last missile was fired on a hospital. We can see how they are continuing to pursue their destructive policy. While we continue to pursue our constructive policy for rebuilding and development. There is, of course, a difference between the two lines—a difference which ordinary citizens can see. Their criminal acts will not pass without punishment, and our people know how to respond to these people.

[AL-HAYAH] What will be the punishment?

['Abd-al-Ghani] The punishment that every criminal who kills innocent people deserves.

[AL-HAYAH] Does that mean you will continue your military pressure on the other side?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Our military actions against the leadership of the rebels and secessionists in the Socialist Party will not be suspended until Yemen's unity returns solid and without these secessionists.

[AL-HAYAH] Now that government forces have seized 'Ataq, the axis of the central sector of southern governorates, will they advance toward Hadhramaut?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Military actions against these people will not be suspended in any area until the people get rid of them.

[AL-HAYAH] Is there a political solution to this war and the current problem?

['Abd-al-Ghani] A political solution is on the cards when military operations cease and the 16 leaders of the secession gang, whose prosecution has been ordered by the prosecutor general, give themselves up.

[AL-HAYAH] We understand that the priority now is the military battle and the destruction of your rivals.

['Abd-al-Ghani] The fighting was started by the secessionist gang in the Socialist Party, and we are defending unity against what these secessionists are doing.

[AL-HAYAH] Will the Socialist Party and some of its leaders whom you consider moderate have a role in the future of the political movement and power in Yemen?

['Abd-al-Ghani] We are willing to talk with Socialist Party members who have not participated in the secession crime.

[AL-HAYAH] It has been noted that the prosecution and arrest warrant issued by the prosecutor general in Sanaa against 16 Socialist Party leaders does not include the names of important Socialist Party leaders like Salim Salih Muhammad, the party's assistant secretary general; Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, chairman of the party's Secretariat; and Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, chairman of the party's external relations department. Does that mean that it is possible to engage in a dialogue with these?

['Abd-al-Ghani] We are willing to engage in a dialogue with all the Socialist Party leaders who have not participated in the secessionist operation.

Rules Out UAE's Recognition of South

JN2505175494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Regarding the Arab stand vis-a-vis the Yemeni southerners' secession declaration and the proclamation of an independent state, 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, told told our radio correspondent Ahmad Birru:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Ghani recording] In fact, we do not believe that the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has recognized the secessionist state or the secession declaration announced by 'Ali Salim al-Bid. The UAE has always been with unity, particularly Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, who supported Yemen unity. We do not believe any Arab or foreign state will recognize this secession declaration announced by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, because it is unconstitutional.

We do not want to impose unity by force, but (?through peaceful means). The whole Yemeni people in the southern, eastern, northern, and western governorates support unity. Those who are imposing state authority in the southern governorates are government forces. These forces are not from the northern governorates, but from

northern and southern governorates. The northern governorates are not imposing unity on the southern governorates. There is readiness for unity. As it was achieved peacefully, it will continue so. All the Yemeni people support unity. [end recording]

Views Dialogue, al-Bid

JN2605150694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1945 GMT 25 May 94

[Interview with 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, by Ahmad Birru; place and date not given; from the "Today's Guest" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Birru] Your Excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council: The Yemeni war is in its third week. As a result of this war, northern and southern Yemen have sustained grave losses. There are many domestic, Arab, and international calls for dialogue. Isn't it high time for dialogue, and is Sanaa ready for it?

['Abd-al-Ghani] We did not want this war. This war was imposed on Yemen by the secessionist elements in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership. We always supported dialogue. We held a dialogue with the secessionist YSP leadership for nine months. We were ready to resume dialogue, but they discontinued this dialogue and started the fighting inside the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

[Birru] Both 'Ali Salim al-Bid and the YSP leadership declared the secession of southern Yemen. As was understood from remarks by Shaykh Zayid, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], the UAE implicitly recognizes the new Yemeni state. Shaykh Zayid said he received a telephone call from His Excellency 'Ali Salim al-Bid. Moreover, Shaykh Zayid warned President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih that Yemeni unity cannot be imposed by force. Do you expect recognition of the south Yemeni state by Gulf, Arab, or foreign states?

['Abd-al-Ghani] In fact, we do not believe the UAE has recognized the secessionist state or the secession declaration announced by 'Ali Salim al-Bid. The UAE has always been with unity, particularly Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, who supported Yemeni unity. We do not believe any Arab or foreign state will recognize this secession declaration announced by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, because it is unconstitutional.

We do not want to impose unity by force, because unity was achieved through peaceful means. The whole Yemeni people in the southern, eastern, northern, and western governorates support unity. Those who are imposing state authority in the southern governorates are government forces. These forces are not from the northern governorates, but from northern and southern governorates. The northern governorates are not imposing unity on the southern governorates. There is readiness for unity. As it was achieved peacefully, it will continue so. All the Yemeni people support unity.

[Birru] Do you hold the YSP, in its entirety, responsible for the war, or are you ready to hold a dialogue with elements in the YSP leadership in order to find a way out of this war?

['Abd-al-Ghani] We do not hold the YSP responsible. This is proven by the fact that parliamentary leaders from the YSP and leaders of the YSP branches in various parts of the Republic have issued statements against the secession declaration. We are ready for a dialogue with these leaders on the best ways to save Yemen from the war imposed on it. We are only against the secessionist elements that started the fighting and declared the secession.

[Birru] The YSP leaders who called for dialogue are from northern Yemen. Have YSP leaders from southern Yemen announced their readiness for dialogue, or are you ready for dialogue with them?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes. We do not view the YSP as a southern or northern party. The YSP is represented throughout the Republic, and its members in the northern governorates outnumber those in the southern governorates. Those who issued a statement against the secession declaration were led by brother 'Ali Salih (?'Ubad), deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, who represents a constituency in the southern governorates. Doing the same were approximately 15 YSP leaders representing constituencies in the southern governorates. They issued a statement, along with their brother members of the YSP in the House of Representatives from some northern governorates.

The truth is that the war is not one between the north and south, as people described it. In fact, elements in the YSP leadership rebelled against the state. These elements are being confronted by all citizens in the north and south. I believe that if you sent people to the southern governorates and asked the opinion of both the man on the street and the leaders, you would find that all people support unity and are against both the secession declaration and fighting, exactly like other citizens in the Republic. [passage omitted]

Presidential Council Member Urges 'Popular Efforts'

JN2705052294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Presidential Council Member Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani called on all sons of the Yemeni people to support their sons and brothers in the battle for Yemen and its unity against the renegades who are calling for secession.

He urged them to offer sacrifices so that everyone can contribute to this historic battle.

This call was made after the Presidential Council entrusted him with supervising the organization of popular efforts, collecting donations, and coordinating with the official quarters in order to support the heroic Armed Forces.

Al-'Attas Continues Arab Tour, Views Recognition

EA2605193394 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Mr. Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, affirmed that his current tour of several Arab countries aims at stopping the war. He pointed out that this war brings losses not only to Yemen but to all Arab countries.

In a press statement in Cairo today, Mr. al-'Attas said that consultations and deliberations are taking place on the issue of recognizing the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY]. This step has been imposed by the war which was launched on the south by the Sanaa rulers. Al-'Attas added that we demand a halt to this war and withdrawal of the forces to their positions before 22 May 1990. Then dialogue could begin on all matters which concern Yemen and how to tackle various issues, either the traces of the war or the future of Yemen.

Mr. al-'Attas refuted that elements in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] had carried out mediation independently from the YSP leadership. He pointed out that there were national elements, with Mujahid Abu-Shawarib [deputy prime minister for internal affairs] among them, who earlier conducted consultations with several personalities outside the homeland. When some ideas began to evolve, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dissuaded these personalities from continuing their efforts.

Mr. al-'Attas welcomed any Yemeni or Arab efforts. He added that he preferred to submit the Yemeni cause to the UN Security Council and he affirmed that the Security Council can assist in stopping the war.

Bin-Husaynun on Fighting, Future Prospects

JN2605194594 Al-Shariqah AL-SHURUQ in Arabic 19-25 May 94 pp 22, 23

[Telephone interview with Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee member, in London, by Bashir al-Bakr, in Paris, on 15 May]

[Text] [Al-Bakr] It seems that the military battle's direct objective of occupying Aden has failed. Do you believe the battle will continue and what are its objectives?

[Bin-Husaynun] The direct objective of the battle has actually been foiled after one week of fighting thanks to our forces' steadfastness. Today, the 15th of May, the forces of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih who ignited the war are in a difficult position. All their supply lines are being cut from the rear. These forces will be besieged and will be forced to either surrender, or be destroyed.

'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's dream of occupying Aden and the southern and eastern governorates are sick dreams. He knows more than anyone else that this will not take place during his time, and that the logic of annexation and occupation is rejected even if this will cost us our lives. The question is not confined to within the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] but is a general popular feeling. The people are ready for sacrifices to shake off hegemony and despotism and to defend their interests.

The battles show that his forces which tried to reach Aden have been routed. The forces are now intermingling in the [former] border areas. Salih's forces are now in a position that is not to be envied. He and the military from the Al-Ahmar family are fully responsible for the military and civilian casualties because they were the ones to launch a war on the Yemeni people on 4 May. The people will not forgive this gang and it will be taken to account sooner or later.

[Al-Bakr] But the communiques Sanaa continues to issue still speak about military victories and about trying the YSP leaders. What do you have to say to this?

[Bin-Husaynun] As the military offensive has failed in attaining its objectives, the psychological war and the military communiques will also not serve the operations room that runs the war. If we review the military communiques issued over one week and the statements made by the civilian generals like Basindwah and al-Iryani, we find that they have captured Aden more than 20 times.

I will reveal a secret. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the gang that launched the war are preparing to escape from Yemen. However, we will not permit them to do so. He will have to pay for what he has committed. We will stalk him wherever he goes.

[Al-Bakr] Does this mean you are preparing to enter Sanaa?

[Bin-Husaynun] Sanaa is a must even if the journey is a long one because it is the capital of Yemen and cannot be given up.

[Al-Bakr] And do you view this as a victory if it takes place? What is the use of entering Sanaa? The president says that his objective is to enter Aden and you answer him with the same logic while the war destroys the country's economy and kills people?

[Bin-Husaynun] We do not claim victories. From the first day of the war that was launched on us, we said we will exercise positive self-defense. What can we do when we find ourselves facing a bloodthirsty suicidal gang? The only solution is to eradicate this gang which obstructs development, prevents stability, and makes the people go backward. This war was imposed on us and on all the good forces. That's why confrontation is inevitable. We have to admit that the people pay a prohibitive price for this, but what can we do?

[Al-Bakr] You toured the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. What was the objective of this tour? What are the positions of the Arab leaders whom you met on the ongoing war in Yemen?

[Bin-Husaynun] We met with [UAE President] His Highness Shaykh Zayid, who cares for Yemeni unity, and with His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, who, along with us, worked to prevent the war option. We also met with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, who is known for his unionist positions, and with His Majesty King Husayn, who sponsored the signing of the document of pledge and accord, and also with His Majesty King Fahd, a neighbor and a brother who cares for sparing Yemeni blood.

We briefed the brothers on the ongoing unfair war which is spilling Yemeni blood and threatening Yemen's unity and stability. We also conveyed messages from brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the YSP. These messages cautioned against the serious regrettable events planned and carried out by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the military clique of the al-Ahmar family. We also carried an initiative by the brother secretary general to spare blood. We sensed both a response and care for sparing blood, for halting the destructive war, and for safeguarding Yemen's unity and people.

[Al-Bakr] What are the points of the initiative you carried to the Arab leaders?

[Bin-Husaynun] In brief, the initiative calls for an immediate cease-fire and the return to the negotiating table in order to resolve all problems. Our Arab brothers promised us to provide everything needed to stop the bleeding and help the Yemeni people circumvent their ordeal. We now express the YSP leadership's satisfaction with this attitude and these genuine and responsible positions.

[Al-Bakr] It is noted that you were received at the highest level. Does this mean the Arab brothers do not recognize the decisions made by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, which ousted you from the government?

[Bin-Husaynun] You may come to this conclusion. I would like to point out that all Arab leaders, whom we met, felt that there is a real crisis which cannot be summed up in such terms as legitimacy and outlaws, terms which Salih used as the themes of his war. The Arab leaders believe that dialogue is necessary and that the decisions made should be canceled, so the two sides could resolve the problem.

I would like to pose a question to 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih: If the southern leaders are secessionists and outlaws, then with whom was the unity achieved? Is unity not concluded between two parties? Moreover, what is meant by legitimacy? Does legitimacy mean the legitimate cancellation of one party in favor of another party?

[Al-Bakr] What is your comment on a statement made by [Yemeni Planning and Development Minister] Dr. al-Iryani that the north would continue the war to finish off the YSP, even if it takes 100 years to do so?

[Bin-Husaynun] If he can do so, let him do it. However, I would like to tell al-Iryani that our ability is twice his ability and we will defend our ideas, principles, and the Yemeni people in the south and north for 200 years.

Furthermore, I would like to blame al-Iryani because we wanted him in the ranks of modernization and peace in view of his known high culture. We, however, find al-Iryani today wearing a military suit and making conflicting and shaky statements.

[Al-Bakr] Has oil been affected by the war?

[Bin-Husaynun] The oil installations have not yet been affected by the military operations, and the oil production and exportation are continuing as before in the oil fields of Ma'rib, Shabwah, and Hadhramaut. However, the exploration and survey operations came to a halt, and a large number of experts departed.

[Al-Bakr] If we assume that fighting stopped today and that you returned to dialogue, what project would you propose? Would you continue the unity or search for a new formula?

[Bin-Husaynun] Our direct objective is a cease-fire. This would facilitate the search for appropriate options. We demand an unconditional cease-fire and a return to dialogue. When we made an initiative in this regard we were careful and governed by a sense of responsibility toward our people. We did not make this initiative out of fear or weakness.

[Al-Bakr] Thus, the opportunity for dialogue with President Salih still exists, despite everything?

[Bin-Husaynun] Dialogue is necessary, whether with Salih or others. This is because Yemen does not lack the forces of good will.

'Council' Member: South Declaration Meant for Unity

EA2605192994 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Mr. 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi, a member of the presidential council, said that the declaration of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] does not mean that south has split away from the north. The purpose is to prepare the Yemeni arena to receive a unified Yemeni state that remains on a democratic basis and takes the pledge and accord document as an approach for government in which no party seizes power to the detriment of other parties.

Mr. al-Makkawi added in a talk to the Egyptian AL-AHRAM newspaper published today that the fighting which broke out in Yemen in the last weeks was only

aimed at drowning Yemen in the blood of its sons. He pointed out that the Yemeni Socialist Party did not begin the war and the repartition, and that those who took the war decision are to blame. Mr. 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi expressed confidence that Aden city will not fall and that the victory by military power will not be achieved.

Southern Official on Situation, Iraqi Involvement

NC2605185494 London MBC Television in Arabic 1810 GMT 26 May 94

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the proclaimed presidential council in Aden, by Antoin 'Awn in London on 26 May—recorded]

[Text] [Muhammad] The world recognizes what actually exists. We are the only ones entitled to defend the cause. We are being attacked, our villages, cities, and institutions are being occupied, and all we have contributed to the Yemeni unity and homeland is being destroyed. Whoever started the war should bear the responsibility for that destruction, for breaking the constitutional legitimacy, and for what happened to the country.

['Awn] You said that what actually exists determines world recognition. What is the reality today?

[Muhammad] The war is entering its fourth week. Whoever said that this war will be settled within days has miscalculated. The war will continue for a long time and will give rise to other options. Hence, we still warn, demand, and raise our voices with an appeal to all to stop this war.

['Awn] Aden repeatedly implied that there are Iraqi POW's. It spoke yesterday about chemical weapons that Sanaa is using. Is there an Iraqi involvement and what is the official stance in Aden?

[Muhammad] I regret to say, away from political oneupmanship or attempts to gain from this or that issue, that Iraq is involved. The evidence is found in the stance its Arab League representative has taken and the stance assumed by the Ba'th Party and represented in the statement the party's national command in Baghdad has issued. This is a clear sign of full bias toward the military action and the northern troops' invasion of the southern and eastern regions of the country.

Former President on Proposal To End Crisis

JN2605111394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 May 94 pp 1, 17

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Former South Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has told AL-DUSTUR that he and Shaykh Mujahid Abu-Shawarib are currently working on an initiative to stop the Yemeni war. In the meantime, sources close to the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership said forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih have reached the environs of the Hadhramaut Governorate, which is adjacent to the Shabwah Governorate.

YSP sources expressed doubts that the president's forces will be able to continue to advance to al-Mukalla, the capital of Hadhramaut, where 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who declared himself president of the Democratic Republic of Yemen a few days ago, is now present. They say these forces cannot deploy over a vast area and maintain their cohesion at the same time.

These sources believe that the opening of the eastern front by the forces of legitimacy in Shabwah was not meant to achieve military as much as political and economic gains represented in sharing the Shabwah oil revenues.

Reached by telephone in Damascus, the former Yemeni president told AL-DUSTUR that he and Shaykh Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, the well-known national figure, will propose an initiative aimed at preserving the Yemeni unity and effecting a cease-fire.

'Ali Nasir declined to elaborate on this initiative at present as its publication may undermine the current efforts and contacts with the two parties to the conflict, indicating that he himself had earlier announced his rejection of 'Ali Salim al-Bid's secession decision. He said: We want a solution that guarantees the Yemeni unity, spares blood, leads to a cease-fire, and solves problems within the framework of the state of unity. He expressed hope that the anticipated solution may lie in an agreement by the two warring parties to simultaneously announce the following:

1. Preserving unity and canceling the secession decision.

2. Ceasing fire immediately.

3. Lifting the siege clamped on Aden.

The former Yemeni president said this can be followed by searching for a new formula that guarantees the existence of one central state that is capable of survival.

Asked by AL-DUSTUR if these are the main points of the initiative he and Shaykh Mujahid Abu-Shawarib are proposing, he said the initiative contains other details.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad denied a statement by 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi two days ago that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid have agreed to meet in Paris. He said: We are still contacting the two men in order to reach a cease-fire first. We will arrange for a meeting between the two at a later stage.

In a related development, YSP sources expressed surprise at the delay in Kuwaiti recognition of the Democratic Republic of Yemen and said that Kuwait was expected to be the first state to recognize the new state and that Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad was expected to visit Aden and announce his country's recognition from there. The sources attributed

this delay to possible strong foreign pressure by international powers like the United States and other regional forces.

Official Praises Libyan Leader's Initiative

LD2605223894 Tripoli JANA in English 1449 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, Al Maa'[May] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—'Abd-al-'Aziz al Dali, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Socialist Party in Yemen has highly praised the initiative undertaken by the leader of the revolution to defuse the tragic events in the Yemen.

In statements to the Jamahiriyah News Agency, the official applauded the sincere efforts exerted by the leader to initiate action to bring an end to the fighting between fellow Yemenis.

The chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Yemeni Socialist Party addressed a letter of gratitude and appreciation to the leader for his unswerving pro-unity and pro-nationalist stance.

The chairman said that the efforts exerted by the Great Jamahiriyah to bring a swift end to the suffering of the Yemeni people and prevent further bloodshed was greatly appreciated and welcomed by all Yemenis.

The chairman applauded the Great Jamahiriyah's concern for the security and stability of the Yemeni people and for preventing an escalation of the fighting.

In statements given elsewhere, Al Dali said that he would be meeting today with Dr. Esmat 'Abd-al-Meguid, the secretary general of the Arab League where he will inform him of latest developments of the current situation in the Yemen saying that the secessionists who declared the breakaway Democratic Republic of Yemen in the south, had submitted an application for membership to the Arab League.

Military Operations, Battle Progress Reported

South Accused of Using Banned Weapons

JN2605113494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1027 GMT 26 May 94

[Unscheduled commentary]

[Text] O sons of our proud Yemeni people in the city of Aden and everywhere in our one Yemeni homeland: The forces of apostasy and secession under the leadership of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the criminal traitor and veteran terrorist, have never hesitated about spreading terrorism and bloodshed to every place reached by their spiteful, criminal hands.

In the same way as they directed their internationally-prohibited missiles of mass destruction toward Sanaa, Ta'izz, al-Hudaydah, Ma'rib, and al-Rahidah, killing innocent children, women, elderly people, and men, and destroying the secure residential areas, they did not spare the valiant city of Aden from their treacherous, cowardly strikes. Missile strikes were dealt to it by the forces of apostasy and secession during the past few days, aiming at the residential areas in the city of Aden as if the bloodthirsty criminals—through this terrorist action—are warning the citizens in the valiant city of Aden with the aim of terrorizing them and dissuading them from joining the ranks of unity and constitutional legitimacy. The hand of treachery, rancor, treason, and secession is being extended to steadfast and heroic Abyan everyday. Missiles and shells are landing in it from warships and aircraft that are still in the hands of the traitors and secessionists, enemies of God, people, and the homeland. These strikes are destroying houses and killing innocent people. What more do the criminal secessionist traitors have in store? Shall we allow them to continue their criminal actions? That is something that will not be tolerated by our proud Arab Muslim people—our great Yemeni people.

South Reports Missile Attack on Aden

EA2605163994 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 May 94

[Excerpt] A responsible source in the Command of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] has condemned the dangerous escalation in the war by the gang of the bloody al-Ahmar clan in Sanaa which launched four missiles on the city of Aden early this morning. The calm and peaceful inhabitants of Aden were taken by surprise by these four missiles, at a time when the adventurist gang in Sanaa is shouting about its wish to bring about a solution by way of a cease-fire. This shows not only the insincerity of this bloody gang, but also once again confirms its insistence on persevering with the destructive war against our people in the DRY and with the lack of care for the innocent victims and other civil losses resulting from this war.

The responsible source in the DRY Armed Forces Command confirmed that our ground defenses succeeded in shooting down one of the missiles, while another fell into the sea without causing any material damage (?or) [word indistinct]. [passage omitted].

Aden Radio Reports 12 Injured in Attack

EA2605190794 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Responsible security sources and eyewitnesses in the capital of Aden have stated that shrapnel from one of the two surface-to-surface missiles launched by the bloody gang of the al-Ahmar clan on the city this morning, which our ground defense forces were able to detonate, injured 12 people who were subsequently taken to the hospital.

Northern Soldiers Urged To Surrender

EA2605191594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] An official source in the Command of the Armed Forces in democratic Yemen has given a statement saying that a number of soldiers and officers who surrendered at various battlefronts and who had been launched by the killer 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to fight against their brothers in the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY], have affirmed that their command had misinformed them about the facts on the political and military situations. For example, they informed them in Bab al-Mandeb-Kharaz axis that their forces had reached Salah al-Din camp, while those soldiers and officers at al-Rahidah front and Karish that their forces had reached Dar Sa'd on the outskirts of Aden. [sentence as heard] This was not only a deceit and misleading to these soldiers and officers in order to plunge them in fierce battles, but was against all reason.

The military source added that scientific military calculations do not accept this. There was also another fact which was ignored by the military command in Sanaa. It was that they were waging an aggressive war, which should be firmly countered by well-trained forces and by people who do not submit to any injustice and tyrant. The aggressors were faced with a brave resistance and incredible steadfastness on the part of the DRY's forces, which enjoy high morale and rare heroism.

The military source added that the democratic Yemen's Armed Forces Command in defense of the national and human responsibility towards the misled elements who were plunged by the al-Ahmar gang, calls on all these soldiers and officers to take a brave and reasonable stand and refuse to continue in this failed war into which they were launched by the family, which is concerned only to maintain the throne of authority of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his adventurous gang. The source expressed confidence of the Armed Forces of the DRY that these (?mischievous) elements will take any opportunity to get rid of the certain death and rid our people and their families of sadness and concern over their lives to which Sanaa's rulers give no consideration. The Armed Forces Command of the DRY affirm that those who will surrender spontaneously will receive all appreciation and respect from their brothers in blood and faith and affiliation to the sons of the DRY.

Aden Notes Successes on Abyan Front

EA2605192194 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The Armed Forces Command has issued the military communique No. 27, saying that our armed forces today continued their crushing blows on the invading forces at all battlefronts, particularly in Abyan Governorate and in al-Anad-Karish-al-Rahidah axis. The communique said that our forces in Abyan continued their offensive operations as suicidal forces stormed the strongholds of these forces. The total estimates of these operations were destruction of six tanks, two missile vehicles, and that five tanks were captured by our forces.

Foreign Minister Assails 'Feeble-Minded' King Fahd

JN2605195694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1805 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has reacted to a broadcast speech addressed by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to the pilgrims last Tuesday, 24 May 1994:

The foreign minister said: We heard the speech made by Fahd in which he stupidly charged in the first sentence that Iraq is skirting UN Security Council resolutions. In the second sentence, this genius of a king went on to contend that keeping the sanctions in place will make sure there is no change in the stands toward Iraq of regional and world powers. In the third sentence—in which he predicted that once the status quo ends, the region will see an era of stability— he became unbalanced.

The foreign minister added: It is well known to the population of Najd and Hejaz and to all Arabs and Muslims that the feeble-minded Fahd begins his day by gulping alcoholic drinks just as greedily as beasts guzzle stagnant water—a habit he practices even during the pilgrimage. He is scarcely sober enough to conduct a meaningful conversation, even at official sessions, which explains why his utterings are typically absurd, revolting, and hollow.

These particular remarks by Fahd fit the pattern of a filthy monarch's manner of speech. His memory, devastated by alcoholic drinks and possibly narcotics, must have led him to fantasize that his kingdom is the sixth permanent member of the Security Council. Influenced by a mixture of repulsive illusions, ignorance, and spite, Fahd set about slandering Iraq and accusing it of sidestepping Security Council resolutions. This agent forgets that his kingdom is not even a nonpermanent member of the council.

What are we to make of his charge that Iraq is skirting Security Council resolutions, or his demand that the sanctions be retained, the foreign minister asked. These remarks, added al-Sahhaf, prove Fahd to be a petty agent of a Security Council member allied with Zionism—a nation that attempts to force its influence and political agenda on the Security Council.

Fahd can convince no one that he is a mere ally of nations that want to impose their hegemony. Fahd's inability to advance a convincing case is because in the eyes of these nations he is hardly an ally; he is viewed as trash, a petty agent attached to a huge pig that has put itself at the disposal of the Zionist Movement to torture the Arabs and antagonize the virtuous Islamic faith and its lofty and undying values. The changes favoring Iraq's cause regionally and globally are ongoing and will continue. The positive relationship between Iraq and the Security Council and the Special Commission is on course. The feeble-minded Fahd and his likeminded petty agents will only reap failure and suffer dire consequences. Great Iraq and its proud people will, in the meantime, continue to walk tall and be a lofty example of pride and dignity and a bastion for the Arab nation and revival, the foreign minister stated.

Press Excoriates 'Vile and Obtuse' Saudi King Fahd

JN2705094894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 May 94

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 27 May (INA)—Two Iraqi newspapers have lashed out vehemently at the anti-Iraq fabrications made by the servant of the Jews and Americans, the vile and obtuse King Fahd, while addressing pilgrims last Tuesday [24 May].

The two papers agreed that Fahd's history is a natural outcome of the bad manners of his family and that his statements reflect the dirty Saudi behavior that is smeared in the mud of collusion with the Americans.

In its editorial today, AL-THAWRAH, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: It is not strange that King Fahd should fabricate lies against Iraq and its people, since this is only part of the conduct of the Saudi family and what is known of its history as an agent of U.S. imperialism since it was brought to occupy Najd and Hejaz in suspect circumstances.

The paper notes the latest treasonous stand that exposes Fahd, namely his hostility to Yemen's unity since its establishment and his efforts to divide the ranks of the Yemenis. Fahd sought, through his ambassador in Washington, to internationalize the crisis in this fraternal country in a pro-separatist attempt. This shows Fahd's inveterate grudge against the nation's unity and his endeavor to strike at the new Yemeni awakening. [passage omitted]

In its editorial today, AL-'IRAQ says the speech of the feeble-minded Fahd should be pitied. The Iraqis are an experienced, hard-working people who are known for heroism and courage in the battlefield. They are leading the faithful to win the satisfaction of God and his prophet. The discordant voice coming from the land of Najd and Hejaz is not the voice of the son of the land of holy places that has a glorious history and civilization. It is the voice of the Americans and Zionists whose flag is fluttering over the holy land thanks to this discordant voice. [passage omitted]

Saudi, Kuwaiti, U.S. Involvement in Yemen Seen

JN2605124594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 26 May (INA)—BABIL has accused the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers and the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa of involvement in a multi-chapter conspiracy that is directed against the unity of sisterly Yemen.

In an article by Nuri al-Marsumi published today, the newspaper says that this conspiracy is being carried out within the systematic conspiracies and aggressions against the Arab world, starting with the aggression against Iraq—the aggression by the United States, NATO, and the agent regimes.

The newspaper adds that after Iraq, Yemen is the most important of the countries that reject aggression and dependence. Yemen's success in overcoming economic problems and entrenching unity will certainly constitute a shining light that frightens the Saudi rulers and their masters.

The paper says that these rulers had been much provoked and the moment the unity [agreement] was signed, long before 2 August 1990, mobilized their forces against Iraq, Yemen, and Jordan.

The newspaper emphasized that the declaration of secession is a crime whose destructive results are no less than the first secessionist crime in the Arab history in 1961 [between Syria and Egypt].

Concluding its article, the newspaper said: The socialists have gone too far in coordinating with the suspect rulers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They forgot principles and history. Before that, they forgot that they are no more than tools to destroy their homeland and future.

NPPF's 'Abd-al-Ghafur Criticizes al-Bid

JN2605165994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 26 May (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, secretary general of the National Progressive and Patriotic Front [NPPF], has stressed that the NPPF and its parties support the unity of the Yemeni territory and people as a pan-Arab achievement, not only for Yemen but also for the Arab nation's masses.

In a statement to INA, 'Abd-al-Ghafur said the declaration by 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his secessionist clique on setting up a deformed secessionist entity has only revealed the dimensions of the conspiracy and schemes hostile to both Yemeni unity and the Arab nation's hopes.

He indicated that Arab Iraq stands against the enemies of both the nation and its awakening. Iraq raised the slogans of Arab unity, of the liberation of Palestine, and of independent will. Iraq fought for these slogans in the historic and immortal Mother of Battles.

'Abd-al-Ghafur added that the NPPF parties wish the Yemeni people happiness and stability throughout their unified land. He noted that the NPPF general secretariat salutes the concern of the Yemeni people, national parties, and Armed Forces to preserve Yemeni unity and to confront the secessionists and their evil schemes. These schemes are implemented with support from the enemies of the nation, the imperialists, Zionists, and reactionaries, he added.

INA Editor on Somali, Yemeni 'Secessionists'

JN2505195694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 25 May 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 May (INA)—[passage omitted] Commenting on the recognition of the government of the secessionists in Yemen by the secessionist Somalis, who call their illegitimate regime "Somaliland," the political editor of the Iraqi News Agency has stated the following: The secessionist Somalis have found in the secessionists in Yemen a tool through which they can support each other in order to strengthen secessionist trends, backed by colonialism and its agents.

He added: It is known that Somalia was enabled to join the Arab League under special circumstances in order to strengthen the positive factors in Somalia's ties with the Arab nation and to play a constructive role in its cultural progress and unity, rather than a separatist and opportunist role.

He also said: This announcement by the secessionist Somalis who are rejected by the Somali people is aimed at harming the Arab nation as a whole and its pan-Arab concepts and trend, as well as Yemen and Yemen's unity. This should make the secessionist Somalis know that the benefits they may take from such a opportunist position are much less than what they can win from sound relations with the Arab nation and its goals.

Barzani Receives Syrian KDP Delegation

JN2705072894 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Brother Mas'ud Barzani, the head of our party, received a delegation from the Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] in Syria at his private residence in the Salah-al-Din resort yesterday, 25 May.

The conferees discussed the current developments in Kurdistan and the threats to our people's interests and the future of our homeland posed by the fighting. They also discussed the continuous attempts of brother Mas'ud Barzani to stop the fighting and restore security and stability.

The meeting lasted almost one hour.

Speaker Salih Meets With Japanese Party Delegation

JN2605163394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 26 May (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received Masatu Okita, the higher adviser of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], and the accompanying delegation [name and title as received].

During the meeting, Salih stressed Iraq's desire to establish strong friendship and cooperation relations with

Japan. He said the return of Iraqi-Japanese relations to normal is necessary in order to achieve the interests of both friendly peoples in a way that benefits both countries.

Salih indicated the importance of promoting Iraqi-Japanese relations in the current and coming phases. He said Japan can play a greater role in this regard by making efforts to lift the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, especially since Japan enjoys the international status entitling it to play such a role.

Okita emphasized the SDPJ's desire to promote Japanese-Iraqi relations on the official and party levels in a way that would achieve the interests of both friendly peoples. He said: We are working to establish a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Arab region, avoiding the use of force.

Okita appreciated Iraq's peaceful positions and its call for the establishment of such a peace, so general welfare can be achieved for all regional states and also for friendly states.

The Japanese delegation arrived in Iraq yesterday on a visit lasting several days.

Aims of U.S. Assistance to Israel, Egypt Questioned

JN2605091594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 26 May (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has questioned the meaning of Washington's allocation in its foreign assistance program of $3 billion to the Zionist entity and $2.1 billion to the Egyptian regime.

In an article published today, the newspaper, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said the declared and undeclared U.S. assistance to the Zionist entity, whether the material, military, or political assistance, emphasizes that their relationship is not a provisional alliance but a deep and active strategic alliance.

As for what Washington offers the Egyptian regime, it is no more than an illusion and a lie. The paper adds: This assistance to Mubarak's regime is not free, but aims to increase Egypt's dependence and its involvement in policies and positions that are totally against the Arab interest.

The newspaper emphasizes that the U.S. assistance to the Mubarak regime amounts to no more than shackles to increase dependence, and subsequently becoming led by the objectives and designs of the United States in the region at the expense of the Egyptian people, in the first place, and the Arab region and its aspirations for liberation and progress.

The newspaper stresses that the Egyptian regime, which has practiced all dirty means and declared its full bias toward anything that serves the U.S. policy in the region, offered a great deal in order to receive more assistance and sympathy. This regime thought it was the first candidate to become the favorite of the U.S. Administration. This regime intentionally ignored the fact that Tel Aviv is not Cairo, and that in the field of service or expertise, this regime is only a small worker, who has a specific role that eventually serves the Zionist interest.

Concluding its article, the newspaper asks: Are these people aware of the swamp in which they have placed themselves?

Rabin, Ministers View Palestinian Plans for Jerusalem

TA2705050094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last night held consultations with a number of cabinet ministers on Palestinian plans regarding the establishment of institutions in Jerusalem and creating facts on the ground.

Qol Yisra'el's political affairs reporter says the ministers were told that the Palestinians are seeking, among other measures, to establish an economic authority and a university. They also want to have Orient House—the unofficial PLO headquarters—granted special status and they want to deploy their own security operatives in the area.

Rabin on 'Clear-Cut Restrictions' on Palestinians

TA2705111194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that Israel will meticulously see to it that all the centers of government for the Palestinian Authority are located in Jericho and not in Jerusalem. We will now go over to our political correspondent Shlomo Raz in the broadcasting van at the Ramat Aviv Hotel in Tel Aviv:

[Raz] Addressing Labor's Political and Social Forum—this time devoid of any puns—the prime minister referred to a series of political issues on the agenda. With Jerusalem increasingly becoming the top item, it is important to hear what the prime minister had to say in view of the agreements signed with the PLO.

[Begin Rabin recording] I have no doubt that there have been several phenomena in Jerusalem through the years where it would have been better if it had not taken place. I believe we will take steps to enforce what is written in the Declaration of Principles, to the effect that all the centers of government of the Palestinian Authority should be located in Jericho. That is what we both agreed to and committed ourselves to in writing, but I will not elaborate on how and when we will do that. [end recording]

[Raz] The consultation summoned by the prime minister yesterday should be noted in this context. The unpublicized session summoned to discuss one issue only: how to tackle the PLO's desire to establish political facts in Jerusalem. Israel plans to tackle the issue by imposing clear-cut restrictions on the Palestinians.

Another issue raised by Yitzhaq Rabin was the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

[Begin Rabin recording] The current situation in the field is reasonable. For example, if they imprisoned the Palestinian officer who would not let Brigadier General Doron Almog travel in the Gaza Strip, I think it is a good response.

In view of all sorts of reports, I would like to clarify that to the best of my knowledge—and we will yet check this thoroughly—not even one Palestinian from the territories has joined the police force without our approval. We did not approve the return of some deportees proposed by them, and our lack of approval prevented their return. [end recording]

[Raz] Rabin was referring to reports that Uri Magidish's murderers had been inducted into the Palestinian police, and he proceeded to deny these reports. The prime minister added—and I have heard him say this more than once this week—that the Palestinian police takes the job seriously. For example, the Palestinians stationed 70 more policemen than Israel had actually demanded at the Erez checkpoint. The prime minister disclosed that Israel would lend metal detectors to the Palestinians for the simple reason that security is important to us.

The prime minister did not say even one word about Ari'el Sharon's announcement that he intends to run for the premiership. Journalists were waiting outside to get his reaction and ask him juicier questions, such as who will be the next health minister, but the prime minister would not humor them and hastened to leave the place.

Earlier in his public address, the prime minister also referred to the negotiations with Syria and Syria's intransigent position.

[Begin Rabin recording] Today, even in my view—for which you are upset with me—the gaps between Syria and us are still broad and deep. This was the situation before, and it remains unchanged. [end recording]

[Raz] That is what the prime minister had to say with regard to the negotiations with Syria which are scheduled to gather momentum in two weeks, when the U.S. secretary of state arrives for yet another tour in the Middle East.

The prime minister spoke about the spread of fundamentalist Islam throughout the Middle East and outside. He gave the example of Holland, where 10 years ago there was only one mosque and today there are dozens. The prime minister said he also discerned fundamentalist Islam among Israel's Arabs, but he went to great lengths to put it in the proper proportions.

Peres: Jerusalem To Remain Jewish Capital

TA2705062494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 27 May 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Mexico by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning sir.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Einstein] Speaking at a news conference in Mexico, you said Israel and Syria were getting closer to opening real negotiations. Is there anything new we do not know about?

[Peres] I said that whoever wants to normalize relations must normalize negotiations. I said that the way to begin normalization is through normal negotiations between two peoples. That is what I said.

[Einstein] Are there any signs that we may be approaching such a normalization?

[Peres] In my visit in the United States I found an atmosphere that still sees a chance to open negotiations, but I did not discern any real signs or changes.

[Einstein] Sir, the question of Jerusalem is currently on the agenda: The prime minister summoned special consultations last night to discuss the PLO's demands; we have heard reports that the draft Palestinian constitution Jerusalem is mentioned as the capital of Palestine. Is Israel prepared to make any concessions whatsoever on the question of Jerusalem?

[Peres] Not at all, certainly not in the political sphere. We are prepared to meet all the needs of worshipers of all faiths. Politically speaking, however, it is an absolute and irrevocable fact that Jerusalem will remain Israel's united capital under Israeli sovereignty. We will not Berlinize Jerusalem, even if the PLO passes 1,000 resolutions.

[Einstein] But Israel has in fact agreed to discuss the status of Jerusalem if the PLO brings it up at the negotiating table, which it is expected to do.

[Pees] Discussions can be held on anything. What difference does it make? It will not change our positions.

[Einstein] Is the PLO aware of our categorical position?

[Peres] Definitely yes, there is no doubt about it.

[Einstein] According to the current scenario, the question of Jerusalem is expected to be the last item on the agenda in the discussions on the permanent arrangement in the territories.

[Peres] We have yet quite a few years ahead of us, and there is no need to press the issue.

[Einstein] Will our position then be as categorical as it is today?

[Peres] It will remain unchanged, because there is no need for any change. Jerusalem was never an Arab capital, while the Jewish people never had any capital other than Jerusalem.

[Einstein] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, thank you very much.

[Peres] You are welcome.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 27 May adds: "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres hailed Britain's decision to call off the arms embargo on Israel."]

Spokesman: Country To 'Shrug Off' 'Arafat Remarks

NC2705070194 Paris AFP in English 0016 GMT 27 May 94

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, May 27 (AFP)—Israel prefers to shrug off the remarks of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat about a "jihad" for Jerusalem and will judge the Palestinians on their "actions" rather than their words, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's spokesman said Thursday [26 May].

"For us, what is important are the actions on the ground and not wild statements," spokesman Oded Ben Ami told AFP.

Rabin initially reacted angrily to remarks made by 'Arafat in South Africa urging a "jihad" or holy war to recover Jerusalem and implying in veiled terms that Palestinians were not necessarily bound by their agreement with Israel.

Rabin first talked of sending troops to reconquer the autonomous areas but he "soon realised that he risked jeopardising the entire peace process and changed his tune," an Israeli minister who asked to stay anonymous told AFP Thursday.

The minister said Police Minister Moshe Shahal and met [as received] two prominent Palestinian leaders from Jerusalem on Sunday to convey a warning to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader.

Shahal told them to tell 'Arafat that his remarks could force Israel to reject further concessions to the Palestinians, because of the effect of his statements on Israeli public opinion.

"The two Palestinian leaders admitted that their leader had no idea of the role of Israeli public opinion and promised to get the message to him," the unnamed minister said. [passage omitted]

Legal Adviser Warns of Sanctions If Accord Violated

TA2705091194 Tel Aviv SHISHI in Hebrew 27 May 94 p 1

[Report by Arye Dayan and Dov Goldstein]

[Text] A new line of action is being worked out in Israel's top political echelon—slowing down the peace process, being tough with the PLO and 'Arafat, and radicalizing pronouncements about our unpreparedness even to discuss the future of Jerusalem—which some ministers believe will contribute to improving the government's public standing.

Although hardening positions does not include any thought of ceasing the negotiations, the government was not far off from adopting such a position.

The ministers are divided between those—like Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer—who support a halt to the negotiations until 'Arafat makes a public statement about his commitment to the interim agreements, and those—like Peres and Rabin—who believe that they should overlook the violations and base themselves on implementation of the agreements on the ground.

Foreign Ministry Legal Adviser Yo'el Singer said in a special interview with Dov Goldstein: "If the Palestinians violate the agreements they signed, they will never reach the stage they regard as their primary goal, negotiations on the permanent settlement."

According to Singer, Israel has many ways to react to violations of the agreement by the PLO.

"We will block the crossing from Gaza and Jericho. Aircraft will not land and will not take off from Gaza's airstrip. The Palestinians will not fish in the sea and their police vessels will not sail along the coast. We will block the Palestinian sources of funds. We will not transfer to them customs imposed on goods meant for Gaza and Jericho.

"We will not transfer to the Palestinians the funds from income tax deducted from Palestinians working in Israel. There are many other sanctions we can impose. I hope there will be no need to impose any of them, but if there will be, Israel will not hesitate."

Closure Lifted on Gaza Strip

TA2705045594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] The closure on the Gaza Strip was lifted this morning, and Palestinians are being allowed to enter Israel under the conditions enforced last week. The closure was imposed last Friday, following the terror attack near the Erez checkpoint in which reserves soldiers Moshe Bukra and Erez Ben-Barukh were killed. Since the attack the Palestinian police have set up roadblocks on the approach roads to entrance from the Strip and are stopping and examining local vehicles.

Ministry Implements Plan To Transfer Bases

TA2605125794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 May 94 p C12

[Report by Sharon Sade]

[Text] The Defense Ministry is starting to implement a plan to evacuate some 25 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] camps and bases built on some 3,768 dunams. The land belongs to the Israel Lands Administration, and half of it is located in urban areas.

The defense establishment believes that the relocation will cost over 500 million shekels and it wants the Treasury to fund the move. At this stage, the defense establishment is focusing on the evacuation of nine bases inside urban areas or close to them in order to permit the Construction and Housing Ministry to build apartments there. These bases are in 'Atlit, Nesher, Jerusalem, Yoqne'am, and Haifa. The relocation of the antiaircraft school from Herzliyya to the Negev was completed several weeks ago and the Defense Ministry was paid 18 million shekels for the move. The ministry also received 16 million shekels to fund the transfer of warehouses from Yafo to Petah Tiqva. The camps will be relocated by private firms.

Planning work will start soon on the evacuation of Army's headquarters at Haqirya in Tel Aviv after it was agreed that the Treasury would transfer some $1.5 million for the planning stage. Defense Ministry sources believe that the cost of evacuating the southern part of Haqirya, which is spread over some 70 dunams, as well as the new construction work, will cost some $100 million, and the process will last seven years. The new construction will be on the land freed by the relocation of the women's hospital at the Haqirya site.

IDF Provides Food to Gaza Police Force

TA2705110694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 May 94 p 1

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has begun to provide meals-ready-to-eat to the Palestinian police force in the Gaza Strip.

The move is being taken after it was learned that the Palestinians have no means of their own and no funds for food.

The problem is that contrary to the situation in Jericho, Gaza Strip residents are incapable of donating food and other products to the Palestinian police force, especially since it is 2,400-strong. [passage omitted]

Shohat Views Economic Agreement With Palestinians

TA2305131694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat today told members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the economic agreement signed with the Palestinians is based on intentions to have economic cooperation and that it may contribute to the development of ties between Israel and the Near East countries. The agreement is good for us and for the Palestinians, and it leaves Israel in control over the main issues pertaining to our interests, the finance minister asserted.

Our correspondent Eytan Almog reports that replying to a question by Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, the

finance minister said there are no signs of a Palestinian migration from the territories to the Arab countries as a result of the closure.

Replying to a question by Beni Begin, Shohat said there is no need for a Palestinian currency seeing that the agreement does not provide for a central Palestinian bank or an independent Palestinian economic system.

Former Finance Minister Moshe Nisim sharply attacked the agreement, saying that as a consequence, compensation will have to be paid to Israeli farmers and that industrialists claim it will lead to the dismissal of 9,000 workers. Nisim added that this is not an economic, but a political and nationalist agreement. Minister Shohat replied that the Palestinians signed the agreement for economic reasons. They are being subjected to heavy pressures by the Arab countries for having signed the agreement, and this proves that theirs were economic rather than political considerations, the finance minister said.

Palestinian Prisoner Release Delayed

TA2605110894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 May 94 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin and ITIM]

[Excerpts] The defense establishment has decided to delay the release of hundreds of Palestinian detainees and prisoners who were slated to be released today in the framework of the release of 5,000 Palestinian prisoners agreed upon with the PLO. Security sources yesterday assessed the release process will continue early next week.

So far some 1,600 detainees and prisoners who signed a statement of support for the peace process have been released. Some 700 other prisoners are refusing to sign such a statement. [passage omitted]

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has appointed Fatimah Barnawi as head of the Palestinian Police women's unit. Barnawi was the first Palestinian woman prisoner following the Six-Day War, according to a senior Palestinian source in Tunis.

Barnawi, 40, was a resident of East Jerusalem. In September 1967 she was the first one who attempted to carry out an attack in Jerusalem, but the bomb she planted in a cinema was discovered and safely detonated.

Barnawi was incarcerated in Israel until 1977, after which she resided in Lebanon. Approximately 10 years ago she settled in Tunis. Barnawi is a member of Fatah's Revolutionary Council.

Two Palestinian prisoners who were members of Fatah's first terror squads, which were headed by Yasir 'Arafat, were released yesterday after serving life sentences in the Nabulus prison.

The two, Tajj-al-din al-Husayni, 55, and 'Isa al-Qaysi, 60, were imprisoned 27 years ago for terrorist activity.

Jewish Detainee Released After Prison Term

TA2505111994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Administrative detainee Eyal Noqed was released from Hasharon Prison today. Noqed is the first Jewish administrative detainee to be released after completing all three months of his sentence.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky notes that this week, it was decided to extend the administrative detention of No'am Federman and Bentziyon Gobstein by another three months.

Kakh Activists Remanded in Administrative Detention

TA2305125094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The commander of the Central Command decided to extend the administrative detention of Kakh activists No'am Federman and Ben-Tziyon Gubstein by another three months, our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky has learned. The two were scheduled to be released in two days, but the Hasharon prison authorities received an order to remand them in custody. Our correspondent has learned that both the detainees and the police were surprised by the news, and the detainees intend to appeal it.

The High Court of Justice rejected the appeal of Gil'on Ben-Sa'id, a Qiryat Arba' settler and a major in the reserves, whose weapon was confiscated after the massacre in Hebron. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the judges ruled that the commander of the Central Command's decision to confiscate his weapon was appropriate and was based on reliable information whereby Ben-Sa'id had previously been involved in violent activities. Our correspondent points out that a restraining order has been in effect against Ben-Sa'id banning him from the boundaries of Hebron.

4 Israelis Killed in Nearly 100 Attacks Since Accord

TA2505155694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] There have been some 100 attacks and attempted attacks, in which four Israelis have been killed and 13 have been wounded, since the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. There have been no attacks inside the Green Line, security sources told correspondents.

They said that immediately after the signing of the agreement there was a sharp increase in attempted attacks with live ammunition against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] installations set up in the Qatif Bloc and against IDF patrols. The sources stressed that some 200

wanted men, mostly Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members, remained at large in the territories.

Poll: Majority Opposes Further Talks With PLO

TA2705111494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 May 94 p 1

[Poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute headed by Dr. Mina Zemah]

[Text] Should the government continue or not continue to negotiate with the PLO on extending autonomy to additional areas? It should continue—35 percent
It should not continue—63 percent
No response—2 percent.

Have 'Arafat's latest remarks changed or not changed your position on the continuation of the negotiations with the PLO on implementing autonomy in further territories? Change: from support to opposition—27 percent
Change: to less support than before—13 percent
No change—57 percent
No response—3 percent

The poll was taken on 24 and 25 May among 506 interviewees, who make up a representative sample of the adult Jewish population. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Paper Demands 'Arafat Reaffirm Commitments

TA2405114994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 May 94 p B1

[Editorial: "Double-Talk Must Not Be Tolerated"]

[Text] Not only did Yasir 'Arafat's Johannesburg mosque speech call on the Muslims to come and wage jihad for the liberation of Jerusalem; in that same speech, the full text of which was disclosed only yesterday, he justified his signing of the Oslo and Cairo agreements by citing Prophet Muhammad's act: The latter signed an agreement with the Mecca tribe of Quiraish, but violated it two years later. This historical reference implies that the PLO leader reserves the right to renege on his agreements with the State of Israel.

His attempt to justify his call for jihad for Jerusalem by explaining that the term—which has an undoubtedly military connotation—does not refer to bellicose activity but rather to nonviolent struggle, was defined by the prime minister as "far-fetched"; it would be equally accurate to describe Yitzhaq Rabin's reaction this way. The PLO leader's reference to the Muhammad example creates a crisis of confidence with 'Arafat. What will Israel be able to rely on if the PLO leader, addressing a Muslim audience, apologizes for agreements with Israel while citing a precedent from the early days of Islam—a precedent legitimizing the violation of agreements?

Israel can understand that 'Arafat must contend with the problem of the Islamic fundamentalists' objection to recognizing the Jewish state and the agreements, but it does not have to tolerate his double-talk. If the PLO leader wants to promote the peace process with Israel, he must retract the transparent insinuation that he is not bound by the Oslo and Cairo agreements and that he even sees himself free to violate them. The Israeli Government cannot again settle for the kind of mollifying explanations 'Arafat offered following his call for a jihad for the liberation of Jerusalem. It is imperative that 'Arafat declare unequivocally that he acknowledges the validity of all the agreements and that he will adhere to them, as he has pledged to do.

Not only the Declaration of Principles [DOP] and the Cairo agreement are at stake. 'Arafat should at last do what he promised in a letter to the prime minister on 9 September 1993: "The PLO considers that the signing of the DOP constitutes a historic event, inaugurating a new epoch of peaceful coexistence, free from violence and all other acts which endanger peace and stability.... The PLO affirms that those articles of the Palestinian Covenant which deny Israel's right to exist, and the provisions of the Covenant which are inconsistent with the commitments of this letter are now inoperative and no longer valid. Consequently, the PLO undertakes to submit to the Palestinian National Council [PNC] for formal approval the necessary changes in regard to the Palestinian Covenant."

'Arafat has owed this approval to Israel for over eight months. Another postponement must not be tolerated. If he wants to establish self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, he must make a concentrated effort to secure the PNC's consent to the approval to which Israel is entitled.

The PLO chief will do well not to delude himself about the gravity of the impact of his Johannesburg remarks. If his yearning for a conciliation with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] renders his consideration for the State of Israel a marginal issue, he should know that the Gaza and Jericho peace process will be frozen in its present condition, and there will be no continuation of the interim and toward the permanent settlements. Unless he sees to it that the clauses in the covenant are revoked, he will be unable to regain Israel's trust in the PLO's sincerity, and instead of settling in Jericho, 'Arafat will stay in Tunis.

Sharon Announces Plan To Run for Prime Minister

TA2705045194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Likud Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon says he has decided to bid for the premiership in the next elections. He says he is working to set up a national coalition which will include a number of personalities and groups. He mentioned in particular the Likud's former foreign minister, David Levi.

In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Sharon also said that he was not leaving the Likud party as part of his bid for a leadership role. He hoped there would be primaries to head the national coalition.

Netanyahu, Begin, Eytan React

TA2705063894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has harshly reacted to Ari'el Sharon's announcement that he intends to run for the premiership in the next elections and called on him to leave the Likud. Interviewed by Qol Yisra'el, Netanyahu said that Sharon sows conflict and dispute. He conspired against Menahem Begin and Yitzhaq Shamir and is now trying to conspire against me. The time has come for this intriguer to leave the Likud. All Sharon does is undermine, sabotage, and split, Netanyahu said. With him, this is a chronic disease. He is a man who does not recognize any democratic norms and sets out to destroy every framework, the Likud chairman asserted.

Sharon told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that he has been holding contacts to set up a united front of the right-wing camp which would hold primaries before the next elections and decide on its candidate.

Knesset Member Binyamin Begin told Qol Yisra'el that Sharon's chances of winning are similar to his chances of becoming the world's tennis champion. This is a wrong move which will lead to a split in the national camp, Begin said.

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan said he would run against Sharon. In his opinion, it could be an advantage if a few candidates of the national camp ran in the first round of elections.

NRP Political, Financial Situation Viewed

TA2605130194

[Editorial report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 26 May carries a 1,500-word article by Amnon Barzilay on page B3, in the "I Saw, I Heard" daily column, discussing the current situation of the National Religious Party [NRP]. The article says that NRP leader Zvulun Hammer recently held separate meetings with Likud's David Levi and Ari'el Sharon "in an attempt to reconciliate between the two," "in a move coordinated with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu," hoping to follow this with "the second stage of setting up the right-wing shadow government."

After holding the meetings, however, Hammer realized "the chances of rehabilitating the Likud leadership are slim." Hammer found that Levi wants to act as foreign minister, and that Sharon will never be candidate for construction and housing minister if Tzomet Chairman Refa'el Eytan is promised the defense portfolio. This further added to the feeling of frustration the NRP leadership is currently experiencing. It is frustrated because "its dream of Jewish settlements in the territories is collapsing, and they can do nothing to stop the process." The frustration grew even bigger in view of the "irreversible processes" of the "tightening political cooperation between Labor and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], as the latter returns to the coalition, and the socioeconomic cooperation between SHAS and Meretz" in the Histadrut labor federation. NRP leaders blame Netanyahu and their cooperation with the Likud. Party officials last week claimed that only NRP activists show up for demonstrations against government policies claiming: "We are their black laborers. Netanyahu comes to our demonstrations, delivers a speech, and goes home."

The NRP heads expect a shift in the right-wing religious public sentiment toward them, believing that the Likud, Moledet, and Tehiya parties will support them in the next elections, gaining them additional "two or three Knesset seats," but some NRP leaders believe this will not be enough to get them out of the opposition. Also, the NRP is in serious financial distress. "The unexpected Labor defeat in the Histadrut elections will be followed by the collapse of the secret financial deals between Histadrut and the NRP," Barzilay says, noting that "the party still has debts of some 5 million shekels from the local elections."

Beilin Urges Merger of Meretz, Labor Parties

TA2305105094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 May 94 p A9

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal]

[Excerpts] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin called yesterday for the immediate establishment of a new Israeli democratic party to be created by a merger between Meretz and Labor. Speaking before the Labor's dovish Mashov circle, Beilin said that the move should begin at the Histadrut labor federation by merging Hayim Ramon's list with Labor and should extend to all the other activities by the parties.

"We would have an 80-percent majority in the Histadrut and 56 Knesset seats, which would make us as dominant as the Labor Movement was at its peak," Beilin said. According to him, past differences between Meretz and Labor no longer exist. He added that a merger now would allow Ramon to implement all the reforms he has planned as Histadrut secretary general, with Labor assisting him. [passage omitted]

Knesset Member Ya'el Dayan rejected Beilin's idea, saying that a merger is possible only between Meretz and the Labor doves. Any other combination would only cause a rift, she said. She believes there is room for such a merger in the Histadrut, but talk of a merger on the parliamentary level is premature. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 23 May carries a report by Dani Gur-Arye with the following "fast and furious" political reactions to the offer:

"Meretz leader Shulamit Aloni said the two parties have much in common, but also many differences. She said it is still early to determine if such a union is plausible. Yosi Sarid said the Meretz parties should unite first, before considering a union with Labor." The report adds that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin criticized Beilin for the remark, saying his timing, following the Histadrut elections, could not have been worse. Rabin said a joint Labor-Meretz party would alienate middle-of-the-road voters. Without the support of those voters, he said, the new Israeli democratic party would be destined for the opposition."]

Beilin Welcomes British Lifting of Arms Embargo

TA2605153094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Israel has welcomed the British Government's decision to lift the arms embargo. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin in an interview with our reporter Jack Katzenell described the lifting of the embargo as a very important decision.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] Of course, it has a symbolic effect, but it has also a very realistic impact because it will enable us to participate in bids of selling arms to Britain, which will include British components, and that can happen only when the embargo is lifted, and when the British can sell us those components.

[Katzenell] So, do you think that this embargo, which has lasted 12 years, has it done Israel a great deal of harm, or has it been mainly a kind of slap in the face, something moral or symbolic?

[Beilin] Both. This embargo was decided upon during the war in Lebanon in 1982. It was a European decision, and only Britain decided to continue the embargo. In our visits to London and the meetings with British officials, we raised this issue. I raised it with Secretary Hurd exactly two weeks ago, and I said to him that it is really inexplicable to continue the embargo after the agreement which has been signed between us and the PLO, and against the background of the development towards this in the Middle East, and I believe that those talks with the British helped us in putting an end to this embargo. [end recording]

REFA'EL Becomes Government-Owned Company

TA2605085794 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 25 May 94

[Report "communicated by the government secretary"]

[Text] Today, (Wednesday) 25.5.94, the government unanimously decided to accept the recommendation of REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] general manager, Brig. Gen. (ret.) Yitzhaq Gat, and a commission led by Prof. Yehoshu'a Yortner to take steps to turn REFA'EL to a government-owned company. Part of the company will be profit oriented and operated on a government provided budget. REFA'EL, the Armament Development Authority, is currently a division of the Ministry of Defense.

To carry out its decision, the government assigned the Ministries of Defense and Finance to create a steering committee and subcommittees to deal with as soon as possible funding, equity, property, land, manpower, legal, economic, and contract issues. The government appointed REFA'EL management to negotiate with the workers in order to reach work and salary agreements.

Vatican Accepts Indirect Responsibility for Holocaust

TA2505105994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 25 May 94

[Excerpts] First to the dramatic disclosure that Israel and the Vatican are formulating an agreement in which the Catholic Church accepts indirect responsibility for anti-Semitism from ancient times up to the Holocaust. We have more details in this report from Dick Winter:

[Begin Winter recording] The historic agreement, which was drafted by an interreligious commission from Israel and the Vatican, states that a frightful mixture of racism, along with religious, political, social, and economic hostility against the Jewish people throughout history, created the basis for the Holocaust, and the Catholic Church did not do enough to oppose it.

One of the chief Israeli members of the commission, Rabbi David Rosen, says the draft is a major achievement and that the Vatican goes farther than even he ever expected it to go. [passage omitted]

Also in the document: the Vatican's acceptance of responsibility for creating in its teachings an atmosphere of hatred toward the Jewish people. Rabbi Rosen says he believes that the draft agreement will now be endorsed by the Pope. [end recording]

Heir Apparent Calls For Mideast 'CSCE'

PM2605113394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 May 94 p 5

[Report by Fatinah al-Dajani: "Prince Hasan: We Are Willing to Sign Peace Treaty After Settling Outstanding Questions With Israel"]

[Text] London—Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal has said that Jordan is willing to sign a peace treaty with Israel when all outstanding questions related to border demarcation, refugees, water, and security, in addition to the final status of Jerusalem, have been settled. He added that peace arrangements have to be made on all tracks, including the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

He proposed several mechanisms to solve some problems like setting up a border committee to demarcate the border and setting up a center for resolving disputes in the Middle East.

In a lecture delivered at the Royal Armed Forces Institute for General Studies in London yesterday, he pointed out that the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli working committee set up to examine issues that concern Jordan "could be upgraded to ministerial level."

He said that "last year's events opened the door to peace in the Middle East, and mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel gave the region an unprecedented opportunity to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute." He added that the historic agreement on Gaza and Jericho "is another step in the right direction."

He went on: "We have reached the stage in which the concept of peace should be negotiated in detail." He pointed to the existence of "numerous issues which should be negotiated before reaching a comprehensive peace. And Jordan will be willing to reach a peace treaty when the questions included on the agenda we have reached with Israel have been discussed and resolved in a manner acceptable to all parties." He pointed out that among these issues are "the border, refugees, security, and water, which are the essence of peacemaking."

He said that it is difficult to reach arrangements regarding these questions before the border and security questions have been resolved. Because it is illogical to talk about Jordanian and Israeli concerns and interests before determining what "Jordan" and "Israel" are. He described the settlements as a time bomb which the organizations opposed to peace and settlers can use to obstruct the peace process. He said that "peace cannot be achieved in these conditions."

He pointed out that Jordan had made several proposals to tackle the border and security problems. They included setting up a border committee to try to demarcate the border in a bid to achieve a lasting regional peace. As for the refugees, "we are negotiating within the boundaries of international law."

He said that the final status of Jerusalem is one of the issues attracting great interest and preoccupying the world as a whole. He urged "clear separation between the religious and the political" with respect to the city, because Jerusalem belongs to all religions, hence no single state should have full sovereignty over it.

He added: "We have made detailed proposals on this separation, because we believe that a suitable solution to the Jerusalem issue is necessary in the search for peace."

He added that Jordan has also implemented several confidence-building measures, including opening banks in the occupied Palestinian territories, signing an economic agreement with the Palestinians, training Palestinian police, and setting up a Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. committee to examine questions that concern Jordan.

He called for drawing up a framework for cooperation and security in the Middle East along the lines of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, in order to achieve a lasting peace in the region. He added that that conference does not represent an alternative to the peace process but complements it. He called for establishing a free zone for trade in the Middle East allowing manpower, goods, capital, and services to move freely. He said that securing a Middle East free trade agreement (MEFTA) would give the region the opportunity to play a constructive role in the world economy. He also said that a program similar to the GATT in Europe might be the best way to handle the economic burdens of the Arab-Israeli dispute and to establish a sound trade and investment system.

He stressed that "peace should be comprehensive and just, so that it will be a lasting peace. And everyone should be given the opportunity and the tools to play a role in building a new Middle East system." He said that the Arab-Israeli conflict has had an impact on the region as a whole and resulted in the accumulation of debts and demographic pressures on states with limited resources. However, he pointed out that Jordan will do its utmost to help the self-rule areas.

Asked about economic integration and its threats to the Middle East region in view of the Israeli superiority, he said that, in view of the lack of a concept and a mechanism for these matters, they should be discussed in the framework of the multilateral talks concerning the Middle East.

Answering a question put to him, he said that the dispute in Yemen reminds us of the strategic importance of the Red Sea.

Paper Urges Yemeni Leaders To Preserve Unity

JN2705092194 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 May 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Preserving Legitimacy and Unity First"]

[Text] Days after the eruption of the civil war in sisterly Yemen, it became very clear that the secessionist tendency was the cause of the deaths and disaster that the Yemeni people have suffered, as well as the destruction inflicted on the state establishments and vital economic facilities and services.

The war has destroyed achievements and costly projects set up by the fraternal Yemeni people with their efforts and sacrifices.

Therefore, a decision to stop the war, return to legitimacy, and to protect the unity of the Yemeni homeland and people is the solution for this dangerous crisis, which, if it continues, will be very costly to both sides.

There are reports of Arab mediation, including Saudi efforts, after the failure of the Arab league's mediation. We hope that any and all mediation efforts will target the preservation of unity for the Yemeni homeland and people, the curbing of secessionist tendencies, and the return of legitimacy. Otherwise, mediation will be a sort of outside interference that encourages the southern leaders to secede, and this conflicts with the aspirations and hopes of the Yemeni people and the whole Arab nation.

The continuation of the civil war will not realize a victory for any party, and the victim will be the Yemeni people and their infrastructure.

The failure of Yemeni unity will undermine the unionist spirit within the Arab nation and drive it to frustration and despair about the possibility of forging unity between any two Arab states.

We urge the Yemeni leadership in the north and the south to expedite an end to this war, to return to legitimacy, and to adhere to the unity for which the Yemeni people have offered great sacrifices.

Minister Brief U.S. Peace Group on Mideast Issues

JN2605162194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that Jordan's rights to land and water must be assured. The refugees issue must also be sorted out in line with UN resolutions, including Resolution 194, the minister told a delegation of the American Peace Now Group, who were calling at his office in Amman today. The minister outlined to the delegation, visiting Jordan in the course of a regional tour, Middle East developments with special accent on the peace process and Jordan's key role there. Al-Hasan reiterated Jordan's abiding commitment to a just, durable, and comprehensive peace based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the land-for-peace formula, a complete Israeli pullback from the occupied Arab territories, and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil.

The minister spelled out the burdens placed on Jordan by the Palestinian question over the past four decades and the economic difficulties faced by Jordan as a result of the siege of the Port of al-'Aqabah. On the latter case, al-Hasan emphasized that this unjustified blocakade must be brought to an end in light of Jordan's contribution and constructive and positive approach to the peace process.

The minister outlined to the delegation Jordan's democratic experience, its pluralistic multiparty system, and its respect for human rights as an irreversible option advocated by His Majesty King Husayn.

On their side, the American delegation applauded Jordan's preeminent and significant contribution to the efforts to make peace and bring stability and security to the region. They were impressed by the major achievements made by Jordan and appreciated the difficulties it has been experiencing. They also expressed the need to extend assistance to Jordan to help it play its anticipated role in the peace process and to bring security and stability to the region.

The meeting was attended by the American ambassador in Amman and Foreign Ministry officials.

First Air Route Between Qatar, Jordan Inaugurated

JN2705153694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Transport Minister Adib Halasah has praised relations between the two fraternal countries, Jordan and Qatar, and the high level of these historic relations, whose foundations were laid down by His Majesty King Husayn and Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency during the inauguration of the first air route between Jordan and Qatar, he said the bilateral transportation network allows the two countries to cooperate in various fields.

Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Ali Al Thani, director general of the Qatari airlines authority, praised the inauguration of this important air route, stressing that the inauguration of this route continues the firm cooperation between the two countries and provides new prospects to promote this cooperation.

Al-Dirani Abduction Prompts Further Reaction

Cabinet Considers Appeal to UN

NC2605204994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 May 94

[Excerpts] The cabinet held a meeting this evening and discussed the Israeli aggression. It stressed the importance of domestic unity and boistering the legitimate security forces with all available means to continue their role in safeguarding the homeland's security. It also decided to ask the foreign minister to hold preliminary contacts to call for a UN Security Council meeting to debate the Lebanese complaint and condemn the Israeli aggression. The cabinet meeting began at 1730 today at B'abda Palace under the chairmanship of President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri also attended the meeting. The meeting continued until 2115. After the meeting, Information Minister Michel Samahah announced the following official decisions:

[Begin recording] [Samahah] At the invitation of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, the cabinet held its weekly meeting at the Presidential Palace this evening. The meeting was chaired by President Ilyas al-Hirawi. At the outset of the meeting, President al-Hirawi discussed the Israeli aggression against Lebanon on the morning of 'Id al-Adha when the Israeli enemy staged a commando operation and abducted Lebanese citizen Mustafa al-Dirani from his hometown in al-Biqa'.

The defense minister then submitted a detailed report on the Israeli act of aggression. He explained the practical moves made by the Lebanese Army to confront this operation. The foreign minister presented a report on lodging a complaint with the UN Security Council and the contacts Lebanon has held on the subject.

The cabinet then discussed the Israeli aggression and stressed the importance of bolstering the domestic unity and the legitimate security forces with all available means to continue to perform their role in safeguarding the homeland's security. The cabinet decided to have the foreign minister hold preliminary contacts for a meeting of the UN Security Council to debate the Lebanese complaint and condemn the Israeli aggression. [passage omitted]

[Question] Did the cabinet discuss the proposals from the UN secretary general [words indistinct] Lebanon and Israel regarding al-Dirani?

[Samahah] Lebanon regrets very much this stance by the UN secretary general. The United Nations is required to implement its resolutions instead of offering to mediate on an issue that requires implementation of international law and UN principles. It is impossible to equate the case of one who fell in Lebanon during an aggression against Lebanese territory and that of a Lebanese citizen abducted from his home on Lebanese territory by an Israeli force that violated international laws and Lebanon's sovereignty. Lebanon demands that this citizen be released immediately, along with all Lebanese detainees in Israeli jails and in detention camps in occupied Lebanese territory in the south.

[Question] In light of the information available, what in your views was the goal of the Israeli operation?

[Samahah] The operation is designed to complement the Israeli plan manifest in the recent bombings, specifically the bombing of Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq Mikha'il and of the Phalangist Party headquarters. In this case and in those cases, the Israeli enemy sought to sow division and doubts within Lebanese society and in the people's unity and their state's capabilities. The president, the prime minister, and all ministers stressed that there is no room for leaving the Israeli links that act in various ways to strike at Lebanon's unity and to confuse the Lebanese people's trust in their legitimate establishments, especially the security forces and the Army and their unity in confronting the Israeli enemy. Lebanon will confront all Israeli operations at this time when our country is facing important challenges, primarily the peace negotiations and Israeli attempts to bend the will of the Lebanese and Arabs, particularly Syria at this stage of the negotiations. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Buwayz Comments on Mediation Offer

NC2605170294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has commented on a proposal by UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali to mediate between Lebanon and Israel to resolve the issue of Mustafa al-Dirani. He said: A mediation between Lebanon and Israel on such an issue makes it appear that Lebanon recently kidnapped an Israeli citizen. However, the truth of the matter is that navigator Ron Arad disappeared after conducting an air raid over the Lebanese territories during the war. Hence, he is not being detained by the Lebanese state, contrary to al-Dirani, who was kidnapped by a state at a time when there was no war.

Buwayz added: We have requested that the UN secretary general investigate the case of over 350 Lebanese nationals who are being detained in Israeli jails. So far, no international or humanitarian organization has been permitted to visit them and be reassured about their fate. A number of these detainees have died as a result of bad treatment. Hence, if the United Nations is in such a hurry to play its political role, we hope it will at least play its humanitarian role. Talking about human rights with often empty slogans and during resonant conferences and showing interest in this issue brings to the surface the UN's delay in sending an investigation committee to look into the issue of those detainees.

Group Denies Holding Arad

JN2605185594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today rejected the idea of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali mediating the issue of Israel's kidnapping of Mustafa al-Dirani, the official in charge of the Believers Resistance. Buwayz said the UN secretary general's role is to obtain the release of the Lebanese citizen.

Our correspondent in Beirut, Antoine Constantine, interviewed 'Ali al-Husayni, one of the senior officials in the Believers Resistance in Lebanon, and asked him about his opinion concerning the Lebanese Government's stand on al-Dirani's kidnapping and the possibility of exchanging him for Israeli pilot Ron Arad.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] This is positive talk. We support what the Lebanese Government has said [words indistinct] brother Abu-'Ali al-Dirani, the UN secretary general, who is entrusted with an international organization which takes care of the entire world, should not compare and should not equate between the victim and the aggressor. I believe that just saying that we should carry out negotiations on al-Dirani and Ron Arad greatly harms the United Nations because Ron Arad bombed the people here, and was arrested on Lebanese soil, while Abu-'Ali al-Dirani was defending his land.

Another thing is that Abu-'Ali al-Dirani has no information about Ron Arad. Butrus Ghali knows this. He previously carried out mediation and directly and indirectly contacted the Believers Resistance, and others, concerning the Ron Arad issue. At the time, he was informed [word indistinct] one of the UN envoys that we have nothing to do with this and we do not have him.

Had Ron Arad been with the Believers Resistance, we—I regret to use this expression—but a man who struggles against Israel, for us, is worth all the Israelis. There is no doubt that we would have exchanged him because to us the individual is more important than anything else. The talk by the UN secretary general that he is ready to carry out a mediation shows he has colluded with the Israelis in the kidnapping operation. [end recording]

Buwayz Briefed on Christopher Mideast Visit

PM2405103994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Buwayz: Syrian-Israeli Talks Have Not Reached Points of Agreement"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz received a message from the U.S. Department of State yesterday. It was conveyed by U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Lebanon Vincent Battle. It deals with the outcome of Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent talks in the Middle East on reactivating the Syrian-Israeli negotiation track.

Buwayz said that "the Syrian-Israeli-U.S. talks are still remote from the possibility of quickly reaching points of agreement, even though they are serious and broaching fundamental issues." He expected "further rounds of talks to be held before a call for resuming the negotiations crystallizes."

He described the "view that settling the Syrian file is bound to reflect positively on the Lebanese and Jordanian file as realistic."

He stressed that contacts are continuing between Beirut and Damascus, "and we are closely following what is happening with regard to the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. And if necessary, direct meetings (between Lebanon and Syria) are not difficult to hold." [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Envoy Comments After Talks With Buwayz

NC2605185694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Viktor Posuvalyuk, the personal envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, is paying an official visit to Lebanon to hold talks with officials on the Middle East peace process and bilateral ties.

Posuvalyuk, who is director general of the Middle East and North African Department in the Russian Foreign Ministry, voiced his country's support for the continuation of peace negotiations. He said that efforts are now focusing on ways to eliminate the obstacles hindering the progress of the peace process. He spoke at the Foreign Ministry, where he met with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in the presence of ministry Secretary General Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan; Ambassador Yusuf Arsanyus, director of the foreign minister's office; and Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev. The Russian president's envoy arrived on the Lebanese-Syrian border point from Damascus before noon today. He will meet tomorrow with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri before leaving for Amman and then going on to Israel.

Responding to reporters' questions at the Foreign Ministry headquarters, Posuvalyuk said:

[Begin recording] [Posuvalyuk] I would like to say that my trip to the region was launched on the instructions of President Boris Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. Such visits usually include two areas: one dealing with bilateral ties and the other with the peace march. To answer your question, we had a candid discussion with his excellency the foreign minister. We discussed details pertaining to the Lebanese track in the peace process. This helped us understand the actual situation on the Lebanese-Israeli track.

[Correspondent] Can your tour be viewed as supplementary to the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region? In other words, do you coordinate with Washington when it comes to submitting certain ideas?

[Posuvalyuk] Yes, we constantly coordinate our steps with the American sponsor.

[Correspondent] What is your comment on the kidnapping of Mustafa al-Dirani, and does this hinder the peace process?

[Posuvalyuk] I can say that we are concerned at what is happening at present. We are discussing this issue with the parties concerned. We believe in the need to eliminate all the causes of increased tension on the Lebanese-Israeli track. This must be based on UN resolutions, primarily Resolution 425.

[Correspondent] Do you expect the resumption of talks soon or are there obstacles?

[Posuvalyuk] We support the continuation of negotiations. We are discussing ways to eliminate these obstacles.

[Correspondent] Have you found during your trip and contacts that it is Israel that is hindering the resumption of negotiations, or is it Arab states?

[Posuvalyuk] I said that we are discussing ways to eliminate obstacles hindering progress in the peace process.

[Correspondent] [Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq] Al-Shar' asked the cosponsors to condemn al-Dirani's kidnapping. What reaction did that request have in Moscow, and have you conveyed that request to Washington?

[Posuvalyuk] I have conveyed that request to Moscow.

[Correspondent] What was the reaction?

[Posuvalyuk] I conveyed that request to Moscow.

[Correspondent] What are the ideas you are proposing to give an impetus to the peace process?

[Posuvalyuk] My theory is that if I start to talk about these details, I will erase the dividing line between the reporter and the diplomat. There are reporters and there are diplomats.

[Correspondent] What are the general outlines of these ideas?

[Posuvalyuk] The general line governing these ideas is that after the parties concerned exchange the required basic assertions, we can get into technical details. We believe that we have reached the stage at which we can discuss technical details, having discussed the general major principles.

[Correspondent] At the end of your tour you will visit Israel. Have you promised Minister Buwayz to raise the issue of al-Dirani's kidnapping in Tel Aviv to discuss ways to release him?

[Posuvalyuk] I will talk to Israeli officials about the obstacles that still hinder the peace process.

[Correspondent] You represent President Yeltsin and Russia, who is a permanent member of the UN Security Council. You are also one of the cosponsors of the peace conference. What is your position on Lebanon's complaint against Israel and its demand for the immediate release of al-Dirani?

[Posuvalyuk] As far as I know, the Lebanese request is still under consideration.

[Correspondent] Is there not an official comment?

[Posuvalyuk] As far as I know, there has been no official reaction. [end recording]

Judge Interrogates Ja'ja', Issues Arrest Warrant

NC2505163494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Justice Joseph Furayhah, judicial investigator of the Sayyidat al-Najat church bombing case, interrogated Samir Ja'ja', commander of the dissolved Lebanese Forces Party, from 1500 until 1700 today. He issued an arrest warrant for Ja'ja'.

Junblatt Gives Army 'Around 50 Truckloads' of Weapons

NC2605113494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt handed over to the Army Command around 50 truckloads of weapons last week.

Hizballah Denies TV Violated Ban on Newscasts

NC2605164594 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 13 May 94 p 2

[Text] Hizballah has denied that al-Fajr Television violated the ban on newscasts and political programs. The denial said: As a clarification to reports published by some news media on 11 May 1994, a Hizballah information source has stressed that the newscast transmitted by al-Fajr Television in al-Biqa' was an economic, cultural, and social newscast and cannot be considered a violation of the decision banning newscasts and political programs.

Radio: Complete Withdrawal 'Before Anything Else'

JN2605144894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1143 GMT 26 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: When Israel talks about the kind of peace it is interested in, it does not hesitate to launch a campaign of allegations and accusations, and to claim that it has provided what is needed to make progress in the peace process possible. Nor does it hesitate to claim that the Arab party is responsible for halting this progress. It does not conceal that it wants complete Arab recognition, an end to the Arab boycott, open borders, established diplomatic and economic ties, and so forth, without its officials uttering the words "complete withdrawal," which they have all failed to say so far.

Here, we can see the large gap separating Israel's proposals and the principles and foundations of the peace process, particularly the UN resolutions on whose basis the regional peace process started. The Israeli leaders are apparently still gambling on drawing Syria into bargaining over land and rights, despite the conviction that it is impossible to make peace with Syria without returning the entire Syrian Golan Heights, without Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and without establishing just and comprehensive peace in an area that will not see stability or tranquility without a just solution and a comprehensive peace.

As long as the Israelis insist on marketing their own concept of peace, their own excuses for keeping land, and their own incomplete view of peace in the region—a view based on individual solutions and unilateral deals—it is only natural that the climate of disappointment persists.

Political observers in the Arab and international arenas realize that Israel is responsible for these disappointments and for the failure of international efforts so far to achieve any results. They realize Israel is responsible for the failure to resume the bilateral talks, and, consequently, for not achieving any progress worth mentioning in the entire peace process.

Therefore, the whole world now realizes, more than at any time before, what direction has to be followed, and where pressure should be applied to activate the peace process and save what is left of it in a responsible and serious way.

We do not think anyone in this world wants Arabs to relinquish their rights and their land, or to abandon the most basic principles on which the peace process was based. This would not achieve peace. Even if it was achieved superficially in one aspect, it would not survive. In this case, it would be an empty peace, lacking the most basic principles of continuity.

Establishing peace and seizing the opportunities available today to achieve it require, before anything else, a commitment to implementing the UN resolutions in letter and spirit, and complete withdrawal to the borders that existed before the aggression of June 1967. Only then will the statement on goodwill, which the Israelis keep bragging about, come forth. The occupied territories are Arab and the usurped rights are Arab, not the opposite.

Official: Golan Withdrawal 'Principal Demand'

JN2605193794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 26 May 94

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, the Artists Association this evening held a central festival on the occasion of the First Artists Day in the 8 March Theater in Damascus.

Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, deputized for the president. [passage omitted]

Comrade Sulayman Qaddah delivered a speech on the occasion in which he conveyed President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings and appreciation to the Syrian artists. [passage omitted]

Comrade Qaddah then spoke about Syria's steadfastness and adherence to pan-Arab rights and firm principles to establish peace. He explained that Syria fought in honor and is negotiating in honor, and seeks the just and comprehensive peace based on the principles of the international legitimacy, the UN resolutions, and the land-for-peace formula. He said: Within this context, Syria believes Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights and return to the pre-5 June 1967 borders is a principal demand and a basic thing that cannot be avoided if peace is to be established and if security and stability are to prevail in the region.

He said: Under the historic leadership of its faithful leader Hafiz al-Asad, Syria rose with the glorious Corrective Movement to build itself, resist aggression, and struggle against occupation. It sticks to the pan-Arab facts and the firm principles. It depends in its steadfastness on the wisdom and courage of its leader and on its sons' efforts, unity, and interaction with their country's concerns, as well as their enthusiasm to develop and bolster their country's prosperity and stability so that Syria will always enjoy the steadfast pan-Arab position and the pioneering national role.

Radio Reports on Killing of Israeli Soldiers

JN2005173494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Two Israeli soldiers were shot dead at a gas station near a group of Israeli settlements in the northernmost part of the occupied Gaza Strip today. An Israeli military spokesman said that fire was opened on the two soldiers from a car that arrived at an Israeli military roadblock in northern Gaza Strip. The Israeli occupation forces were unable to stop the car.

The Israeli occupation authorities informed Palestinian police in the self-rule area of the details of the operation, requesting help to apprehend the perpetrators. An Israeli spokesman said that the Palestinian police commander informed him that the Palestinian police would investigate the incident and embark on swift searches for those responsible.

The Islamic Jihad Movement claimed responsibility for the operation. In a statement, the Movement said that all its elements who carried out the operation returned safely to base.

Two Israeli settlers were also injured today when intifadah youths opened fire on their car in Gaza Strip. The Israeli occupation forces hurried to the scene and began extensive combing operations in search of those responsibile.

The Israeli occupation authorities decided to prevent Palestinian residents of Gaza Strip from entering Israel after the killing of the two Israeli soldiers. A spokeswoman for the Israeli Army said that this ban will continue until 29 May.

'Palestine Broadcast' Praises 'Execution' of Israelis

JN2605175994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 May 94

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Excerpts] Palestinian Arab revolutionaries recently punished two of the terrorist Israeli occupation troops in the Gaza Strip. Consequently, Israel closed the heroic, struggling Gaza Strip. This measure is certainly meant as a punishment for the Palestinian Arab people. However, perhaps because of its numerous and continuous mass punishments of the Palestinian Arab people, Israel, when it recently closed Gaza as a mass punishment, has forgotten that it has been closing the Gaza Strip and the West Bank as a punishment for exactly two years and two months. Therefore, the closure of the Gaza strip is a mass punishment. Whether it is fair or wrong and terrorist, like the oppressive Israeli practices, a punishment is supposed to be aimed against those directly responsible for a certain operation or those who failed to prevent the occurrence of such an operation. As for those who carried out the operation—the Palestinian people—they are as much experienced in enduring Israeli crimes as they are experienced in meting out the severest punishments to the Israeli terrorism. This is proven by the operation that led Israel to close the Gaza Strip, already closed for two years and two months. As for those responsible for the failure to block the Palestinian resistance men's execution of two Israeli occupation troops, who are they? Evidently, Israel holds the self-rule authority responsible. Therefore, it has closed the Gaza Strip. However, it should be noted that the fedayeen operation was carried out in an area directly controlled by the Israeli occupation army, in accordance with the Gaza-Jericho agreement. What does this mean? Despite our rejection of partial solutions, such as the Gaza-Jericho agreement, we say those responsible for the failure to prevent Palestinian Arab strugglers from punishing and killing Israeli invasion soldiers are specifically the Israeli occupation troops themselves, not any other authority. Consequently, Israel should punish its soldiers manning the roadblock, which Israel calls the Erez roadblock. [passage omitted]

However, Israel does not want to admit the heroism of the fedayeen nor the failure of some of its soldiers. Therefore, it is trying to cover up this failure and impotency by punishing the Palestinian Arab people. Has not Israel understood yet that its mass punishments have prompted the few who remained outside the intifadah to join the resistance, turning the entire Palestinian people into a wave of fire daily scorching Israel's face? Israel has not understood, nor will it understand. We do not want them to understand. This is because there are still many chapters to go in the book of the fair Palestinian Arab punishment of the Israeli terrorism and occupation. Those chapters, which are part of the armed Palestinian struggle, will be written by Palestinian Arab bullets in the body of the Israeli occupation.

Avenging Israeli terrorism is another face of the Palestinian revolution of liberation. This fair, well-planned vengeance, whose clear objective is liberation and deterring and punishing the Zionist enemy, is a book with renewable chapters. It will end only with the departure of the last wolves of Israeli occupation and the demolishing of the last Israeli Army camp and last Zionist settlement in the revolutionary Palestinian Arab territory.

South Yemen's al-'Attas Arrives on Visit

JN2605203594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2026 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, former [Yemeni] prime minister and envoy of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, arrived this evening in Damascus. He is accompanied by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the [Socialist] Party Political Bureau.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Mr. al-'Attas made a statement to a Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, correspondent in which he said: I am pleased to visit fraternal Syria. I look forward to meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad and the brother officials to exchange views on conditions in Yemen.

He added: We have great confidence in the efforts Syria is exerting to end the fighting and preserve Yemen's unity and what can be saved of the ties of brotherhood that were hit and greatly affected by the war.

Abduction of Lebanese Leader 'New Obstacle' to Peace

JN2705055794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 27 May 94

[From the press review]

[Text] The commentaries and analyses of AL-BA'TH, the only paper published today because AL-THAWRAH and TISHRIN are on holiday, stress the need to bring international pressure to bear on Israel by refraining from supporting it until it abandons its aggressive inclination and complies with the will of the international community and its resolutions to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Under the headline "Israel Commits Aggression, Receives Support," AL-BA'TH writes: Israel seeks deliberately to reshuffle cards whenever it feels the pressure of international appeals for peace to guarantee Middle East security.

In line with the strategy of world Zionism, the Israeli leadership creates tension in the region to form a kind of pressure on the countries that support Israel and Zionist objectives.

In this regard, the paper notes the ongoing Israeli aggression against Lebanon. If aggression is one form of tension, then the abduction of people from their homes is an act of piracy, a crime, and a new obstacle to the peace process that was launched in Madrid.

AL-BA'TH says that when Israel receives a quarter of all U.S. aid to the world, then it will continue to have a tendency toward aggression and crime. When Europe lifts all forms of arms embargo on Israel and maintains this embargo against the Arabs, Israel receives direct support for its aggressive policy.

The paper adds that Israel, which has challenged the United Nations for almost half a century, is once again challenging anything that could check its aggressive tendency.

When Israel threatens those with whom it has signed agreements, it confirms that it does not want peace, not even in its very weakest forms, such as the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Israel is committing aggression and yet receiving support and backing. It claims that it is willing to make peace, but at the expense of the Arabs, their territory and dignity, and at the expense of international law, which it is still defying and rejecting.

Al-Zu'bi Receives Egyptian Petroleum Minister

JN2605190394 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] At 1400 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Egyptian Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi. The meeting was attended by Dr. Nadir Nabulsi, minister of oil and mineral resources; the director general of the Syrian Oil Company; and the Egyptian ambassador in Egypt. Discussions dealt with the existing relations of oil cooperation between the two sisterly countries.

Meanwhile, the Syrian-Egyptian oil subcommittee began meetings at the Oil Ministry today. The Syrian side was led by Dr. Nadir Nabulsi, minister of oil and mineral resources. The Egyptian side was led by Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi. Discussions at the meeting dealt with issues pertaining to bilateral oil cooperation and ways of bolstering it for the joint benefit of both counties. It was agreed to establish a joint Syrian-Egyptian company for drilling and maintaining wells and to refer its draft law to competent authorities to complete the terms of its establishment and its economic feasibility.

The oil minister said this agreement is a true translation of the instructions of the political leaderships of both Syria and Egypt.

The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying the Egyptian petroleum minister and the director general of the Syrian Oil Company.

Al-Zu'bi, Qaddah Receive CPC Delegation

JN2505135794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] At 1200 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received a CPC delegation, led by Comrade Wei Jianxing, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the Chinese Federation of Trade Unions. The Chinese ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Comrade Jianxing conveyed greetings from Chinese Premier Li Peng to Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi who also asked Jianxing to convey his greetings to Mr. Li Peng.

The talks dealt with the means of promoting the existing relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP], earlier today received Comrade Wei Jianxing and the accompanying delegation. The Chinese ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed relations of friendship and cooperation between the ASBP and the CPC and means of promoting them.

The ASBP assistant regional secretary briefed the guest delegation on the developments of the political situation in the region and the peace process. He also explained the obstacles placed by Israel to abort the peace process and to divert it from the bases, principles, and formulas it was based on.

Comrade Qaddah expressed Syria's concern about the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace based on the principles of international legitimacy, UN resolutions, and the land-for-peace formula that guarantees the liberation of the entire Golan and withdrawal to the pre-5 June 1967 border.

Comrade Jianxing praised Syria's stands under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, its desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, and its central and decisive role in this regard. He also reiterated China's support for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which constitute the basis of the peace process.

Delegation Meets Al-Asad

JN2605151294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] At 1000 today in Latakia, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr. Wei Jianxing, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, who is also head of the Chinese Federation of Trade Unions, and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Barty, and Mr. Li Qingyu, the PRC's ambassador in Damascus. Mr. Wei conveyed greetings from PRC President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Li Ping to his excellency the president. Acknowledging the greetings, his excellency asked that they communicate his greetings and good wishes to the Chinese leadership and people.

The Chinese delegation told the president they were satisfied with their talks in Damascus and that they would help boost ties between the two countries. The Chinese delegation said they were impressed by the advancment made by Syria, led by his excellency the president. The sides discussed the Middle East, with the Chinese delegation applauding Syria's position on the peace process. They said China's Middle East policies were in line with Syria's position as far as the peace process goes. A standing invitation for his excellency the presdient to visit China was renewed. The president promised to make the visit at an appropriate date.

Swiss Foreign Affairs Secretary Leaves Damascus

JN2005154894 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Damascus, 20 May (SANA)—Jacob Kleinberger, Swiss secretary of state for foreign affairs, left Damascus at noon today after a three-day visit to Syria, during which he met with a number of officials. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by the assistant foreign minister and the Swiss ambassador in Damascus.

UK, Swedish Trade Delegations Visit Damascus

JN2505124394 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 8 May 94 p 11

[Text] Damascus—A British trade mission arrived in Damascus yesterday on a week-long visit to Syria which was arranged by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The mission will meet with the competent officials and ministries as well as with businessmen in Damascus and Aleppo with a view to examining prospects for mutual cooperation and becoming acquainted with commercial and economic developments in Syria. The mission consists of the representatives of seven industrial and commercial companies and other services, consultancy, and engineering firms in London.

The mission's visit has been timed with the first Syrian trade exhibition in London which was opened by Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi on 3 May and continued until 7 May. The exhibition included the productions of more than 132 Syrian companies.

An expanded meeting was also held at the Damascus Chamber of Commerce with the Swedish trade delegation which arrived in Damascus yesterday in order to examine the possibilities of investment cooperation with the private sector in Syria. The meeting was attended by Dr. Ratib Shallah, president of the chamber.

The discussion dealt with the prospects of cooperation between Swedish industrial and commercial firms and Syrian businessmen in certain suitable export industries.

The head of the Swedish delegation affirmed his country's readiness to cooperate by giving all the facilities that are needed for any project provided an economic feasibility studied has been carried out.

For his part, Dr. Shallah called for equal trade and the possibility of Swedish assistance in certain investments which are suitable for Syria.

The Swedish ambassador in Damascus made a speech in which he referred to the growth of Syrian exports to Sweden, especially fresh vegetables and textiles, and affirmed their good quality. He urged Syrian exporters to establish broader relations with Swedish businessmen and to become further acquainted with the needs of Swedish markets.

Minister, Finnish Delegation Discuss Economic Ties

JN2705074594 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 11 May 94 p 4

[Text] Damascus (SANA)—Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, has met with the Finnish economic and trade delegation currently visiting Syria. The delegation includes officials from Finnish Government ministries and departments as well as businessmen representing different sectors.

During this meeting, the conferees reviewed economic and trade relations between the two countries and the prospects for commercial and economic dealings in the public, private, and mixed sectors. The conferees also reviewed the possibility of joint ventures between businessmen in both countries and the participation of Finnish companies and firms in Syrian projects.

Dr. Yasin also replied to questions from members of the Finnish delegation on the development of the different sectors of the Syrian national economy.

Ba'th Party Secretaries, Governors Meet

JN2705083294 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 11 May 94 pp 1, 11

[Text] Damascus (SANA)—Comrade Dr. Sylayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, yesterday opened the meetings of the comrade secretaries of the party branches and governors. The opening session was attended by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the party; comrade 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly; Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; comrade members of the party Regional Command; deputy prime minister for services affairs; comrade ministers; presidents of popular organizations, trade unions, and professional organizations; presidents of universities; and directors of media institutions.

Following the official opening of the meeting, the participants observed one minute of silence in honor of the late national hero Staff Major Engineer Paratrooper Basil al-Asad. The comrade assistant regional secretary also conveyed the affection and appreciation of the party secretary general leader struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

The comrade participants then began discussing the items on the agenda. The comrade secretaries of the party branches and governors presented a detailed review of the organizational, economic, and services conditions and the working circumstances of the Progressive National Front branches in the governorates, as well as the stages that have been reached in carrying out work plans in the various fields. They also assessed the level of production and administrative performances and made their future predictions concerning all aspects of life with the view to developing work, improving performance, and increasing production.

The discussions of the comrade participants underscored the high standard of performance in providing services and all requirements, solving citizens' daily problems, entrenching the solid national unity, and reinforcing the security and stability enjoyed by Syria under the historic leadership of the comrade party secretary general and president of the republic.

The comrade secretaries of party branches and governors continued their meetings yesterday evening under the chairmanship of comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah and the presence of comrade 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah; Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Regional Command members; the deputy prime minister for services affairs; some comrade ministers; the chairman of the party Control and Inspection Committee; deputy heads of party offices; presidents of popular organizations, trade unions, and professional organizations; presidents of universities; and directors of media institutions.

The comrade secretaries of the party branches and governors discussed the items on the agenda and made their comments on organizational, economic, and services issues as well as on the problems and difficulties facing the progress of work.

Afghanistan

Three Militia Commanders Join Mojahedin

LD2205174994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Three commanders of the infamous Golboddin-Dostam militia have recently joined the Islamic Army and Mojahedin along with their men. According to reports reaching the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY, three militia commanders, Commander Sayed Taher, Commander Qader Shah, and Commander Hafif who were in the ranks of the infamous Golboddin-Dostam militia in a battalion located around the electricity project in Tashqhorghan, have joined the unit of Commander Hamidullah [word indistinct] along with their weapons and men. They expressed regret over their past activities. The men from the Army post expressed their indignation against the militia and pledged to continue the jihad to the end until the complete elimination of the militia.

Our correspondent adds that since the failed coup d'etat of Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam on 1 January until now, dozens of militia commanders and men, having expressed regret over their activities, have ended their hostilities with the Islamic State, and continue their jihad and struggle against the militia alongside the ranks of the mojahedin.

Militia Leaders Leave Country After 'Defeat' in North

LD2605203694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Quoting security sources, a Bakhtar Information Agency correspondent reports that after the militia's defeat in the northern provinces—during which Rasul Bekhoda, one of their oppressive leaders was seriously injured and 70 militiamen were killed in face-to-face fighting with the Islamic Army—men from the same group in Mazar-e Sharif left the country for the Central Asian republics with forged passports and after looting public properties.

Reports say that the existence of Dostam's militias and infamous Parchamies [Communist Party faction led by Karmal] alongside Golboddin's men has created new concerns among Dostam's militias and Parchamies, and the situation is getting harder than ever for them. Therefore, 30 militiamen have escaped to Pakistan recently with their families from Kabul city. [passage indistinct]

It has been said that Rasul Bekhoda is one of the high-ranking commanders of Dostam's group who had been a commander of [word indistinct] in Pol-e Charkhi. Then he was a leader of a militia unit under the old regime and participated in criminal activities and assassination.

India

President Leaves on Visit to Bulgaria, Romania

BK2605043194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, has left New Delhi today on an eight-day state visit to Bulgaria and Romania. A high-level delegation, including the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, and the civil aviation minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, and ministers of state, Mr. Arvind Netam and Mr. Salman Kurshid, are accompanying the president. Our correspondent accompanying the president reports that the visit will explore the possibility of strengthening cooperation between India and the two East European countries.

The president was seen off at the airport by the vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan; the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao; his cabinet colleagues; the Uttar Pradesh governor, Mr. Motilal Vora; and the three service chiefs.

In Bulgaria, six bilateral agreements are to be signed including one on avoidance of double taxation. The highlight of the president's visit to Romania will be adoption of a basic political document by the two countries. The president will also address a joint session of the Romanian senate and the chamber of deputies. The University of Bucharest is to confer an honorary doctorate on Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma.

Pressler Proposal To Cap Nuclear Programs 'Honest'

BK2605133794 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 25 May 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Pressler's Proposal"]

[Text] The suggestion of Larry Pressler, U.S. Republican party senator and the author of the Pressler Law, that China's nuclear programs should be capped along with India's and Pakistan's seems to be an honest one. He is right in saying that India cannot give up its nuclear program because of China's continuing nuclear program. This suggestion makes it quite clear that Pressler's attitude is free from any prejudice. He goes into the details of an issue and arrives at an objective analysis. He had argued first before the U.S. Administration that economic aid to Pakistan should be stopped because Pakistan was secretly manufacturing the nuclear bomb. He has again advanced the argument that F-16 fighter planes should not be supplied to Pakistan because there is a danger of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan. F-16 fighter planes could be used to drop nuclear bombs. Pressler has further said that Solarz is considered a friend of India and he is very knowledgeable as far as this area is concerned. The way the proposal to appoint him as the envoy to India has been taken back has been condemned by Pressler. Maybe Pressler has not been a

close friend of India as Solarz has been, but his neutrality has certainly shown that he is a well wisher of India.

The proposal advanced by Pressler fully fits into the United States' South Asia policy; hence, the U.S. Administration will definitely ponder over it. America wants South Asia to be a zone totally free of nuclear weapons. But is it possible for America to "arm-twist" China? We don't think that America can persuade China to cap its nuclear program. Like India, China can also ask why only South Asia should be converted into a nuclear weapons free zone? America has inter-continental missiles which can drop nuclear bombs at a given target. However, Larry Pressler's proposal goes in favor of India and India can't give up its nuclear program, not only because of Pakistan, but because of China also. Recently, the Chinese Ambassador to India said that India could not be forced to sign the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty] because India is a sovereign country. China is not as opposed to India's nuclear capacity as the U.S. is. Of course, the Chinese envoy's statement about India was in line with his country's own interests. Each country talks about its own interests. Therefore, India can do likewise, and its arguments will be carried to the U.S. Administration by people like Pressler, which will strengthen the Indian stance in America. Of course, nothing may come out of it, but the fact remains that India's position is being properly understood.

Singh Comments on 301 Dispute, Other Issues

BK2505124294 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 23 May 94 p 22

[Text] The finance minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, has said that India's differences with the U.S. on Super 301 can be resolved through the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Dr Singh said the GATT disputes redressal mechanism was available to seek settlements with any country, including the U.S. But the U.S. had a right to have its own legislation, as India had a right to its own, he said.

He was responding to questions from journalists during his visit to London, on his way back to New Delhi from the U.S. He met the chancellor of the exchequer, Mr Kenneth Clarke, here.

Dr Singh asserted that India's economic reforms programme and the broad strategy of integrating Indian economy with the global economy were fully endorsed by the U.S. government and the captains of U.S. trade and industry.

There was a lot of enthusiasm in the U.S., both in the government and among the American businessmen, about India's prospects as a large and emerging market offering great opportunities for U.S. investments, he said.

Dr Singh said: "There is no weakening of interest in India." The demand for global deposit receipts (GDRs) and commercial paper continues to be strong, he said. "There is no crisis of confidence in India," he added.

On his visit to the U.S., he said, he found a lot of interest in investment in India. It was a "fully successful visit", he said. Asked if it was necessary for Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to have gone to the U.S., he said that "it was a good time to go".

Asked about reservations of multinational companies about Indian labour laws, Dr Singh said, "The companies do not find the labour laws insuperable barriers". But, he said, "we do recognise there is a need for flexibility".

He said: "At the same time, there must be a proper psychological environment." In a fast-changing world, "we are willing to look at all mechanisms", he said.

On the contentious issues like the U.S. trade embargo, the finance minister said these issues were discussed but no final conclusions were reached.

Asked particularly about rising inflation, Dr Singh said inflation in India was not an indication of excess demand in classic terms. He said the balance of payments position was improving. The deficit in the current and trade accounts was down.

The inflation was a reflection of a rise in administrative prices, he said. The cotton crop had been bad, sugar prices had risen, but these were a part of world trends, he added.

Asked to comment on the "collapse" of the VSNL [expansion unknown] issue, Dr Singh said: "There was no collapse. There was ample response. The question was at what price we want to sell. We thought if we wait two months or so, we can get a better deal."

In response to a question as to why the government was legislating the GDR market, he said: "It would be premature to have excessive liberalisation on the capital account." Flows in and out had to be controlled and external liabilities could not be allowed to be piled up on a large scale, he said.

Dr Singh was told of several problems with the Indian bureaucracy by some NRIs [non-resident Indians] at the meeting. He said liberalisation was not a one-off attempt. It involved "changing the mind-set of our bureaucracy", he said. He admitted that "in some states, things may not be moving as fast as they should" .

There would be no going back on liberalisation, he said, when asked to comment on opposition to it. "You should judge people not by what they say but by what they do," he said.

The CPM [Communist Party-Marxist] government in West Bengal was, for instance, tying up with multinational companies to launch joint ventures. "We have to integrate into the world economy. Liberalisation is in the

interest of our people", he said. "Some old habits die hard, but opposition to the changes is melting," he said.

Asked to comment on new facilities for NRIs announced in the U.S., Dr Singh said cards for NRIs would do away with visa needs and provide them other facilities. Details had yet to be worked out he said. "First we recognise that we need to find credible institutions to strengthen bonds with NRIs," he said.

Replying to a question on entry of foreign newspapers, he said a debate over the future policy on print media was currently on. At present, the Cabinet decision of 1956 barred entry of foreign newspapers into India and this was applicable to all categories of foreigners, he said.

The high commissioner, Mr L M Singhvi, said the announcements in the U.S. meant, in effect, giving NRIs "a form of dual nationality but not dual citizenship". Very substantial progress had been made in recognising these links, he said.

ASEAN Asked To Help Develop 'Global Trading System'

BK2505091194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] India has sought the cooperation of ASEAN—the Association of South East Asian Nations—for adopting a common strategy to evolve a nondiscriminatory global trading system. The commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has said that the strategy will bridge the trade gap between the developing and the developed countries with the World Trade Organization coming into effect from January next.

Iran

'Retaliation' for al-Dirani Abduction Termed 'Just'

NC2705103394 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 May 94 p 2

[Commentary by Mas'ud Khales: "An Eye for an Eye"]

[Text] In the early hours of Saturday a group of special commandos of the Zionist regime carried out a terrorist act and kidnapped Mustafa al-Dirani, the leader of Lebanon's faithful resistance. Supported by two helicopters and with the help of local elements, the commando group violated Lebanon's sovereignty, raided the home of Mustafa al-Dirani, and, after threatening al-Dirani's wife and children, abducted him and took him to occupied Palestine. Hours after this operation, the prime minister and foreign minister of the Zionist regime admitted the "kidnapping" and praised and encouraged the abductors. Lauding this attempt, Yitzhaq Rabin said al-Dirani was not abducted for the sake of a transaction, but to help find Ron Arad. Ron Arad is an Israeli pilot whose plane was hit by anti-air missiles in 1986 when he was bombing Palestinian camps in Sidon and was taken captive by the Muslim forces.

This is the second such act by the Zionist regime since the release of all the Western hostages in Lebanon. Two years ago Zionist regime helicopters fired at a car carrying Hizballah leader Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi and martyred him, his wife, and his children.

The recent "kidnapping" is not the first such act by the Zionist regime; it will possibly not be the last. In view of the time at which this incident took place, there are some important points that should be stated and some lessons to be learned.

1. This act showed that despite the recent commotion and the ridiculous show by Cairo, the fulfillment of peace in the Middle East is nothing but a mirage. Actually, by kidnapping Mustafa al-Dirani at a time when the world community led by America is ringing the so-called bells of peace, Israel showed that the peace process is like a train full of Arab and Palestinian passengers who do not know their final destination.

2. The most optimistic assessment of the silence by the West and international forums on Israel's "state terrorism" is that this silence stems from their confusion over the actions by the Zionists ruling occupied Palestine; and if their silence does not mean confirmation, they should prove this by their deeds. It seems a new opportunity has emerged for all the governments that are accused of terrorism to question the U.S. policy of double standards on terrorism. Although propounding this topic in international organizations will be confronted with America's veto as usual, it will be an effort by the accused to put forth a new interpretation of terrorism and its limits.

3. This act also showed that despite what the world community thinks, the hostage file has not yet closed and Israel continues to use hostage-taking as a method to forward its objectives. In this case, combatant groups—wherever they are—should be granted the "right" to use the same method the enemy resorts to at the peak of its strength.

Unfortunately during the past years the enemy's psychological war against the combatant Palestinian and Lebanese groups has been effective and—at the peak of their oppression—these groups have been accused of terrorism and kidnapping, while—at the peak of its power and with international support for the so-called peace process—the enemy continues to use this method. The world community should clarify where the policy of "double standards" stands. Naturally the oppressed cannot be expected to unilaterally close this file. No sane person would make such a recommendation. If Mustafa al-Dirani cannot be safe in his home, why should the Zionists be safe in their homes?

4. With this act, the Zionist regime showed that it has not given up its efforts to advance its aggressive objectives under any condition and that world public opinion and reaction is worth nothing to it. If this is so, then those whose territory is occupied by the enemy will be entitled to reserve the right to set limitations aside to defend themselves and to oust the enemy and to choose the time

and the venue for their confrontation with the enemy. According to Hizballah, no part of Lebanon is safe for the Muslims. Under such circumstances, rendering every area insecure for the Zionists and their mentors within the framework of the policy of retaliation is a just act that should not be protested. Any protest should be aimed at a usurping government that supports terrorism and attaches no value to public opinion.

Protesters Urge 'Overthrow' of Hashemi-Rafsanjani

PM2605143994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 May 94 p 4

[Report by Safa Ha'eri: "Demonstrations in Qom Against Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani"]

[Text] Paris—Anti-regime demonstrations involving some 6,000 people were staged in Qom yesterday. Sources in the city said that the demonstrators, most of whom are clients and depositors of the "Waliyy ol-Asr" loans and savings company, which was established in 1991 by senior clerics, protested against the "disappearance" of some 12 billion riyals they had deposited in the company. Demonstrators chanted slogans, calling for the overthrow of 'Ali Khamene'i, the republic's guide, and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. It is worth noting that, in the absence of a sound banking system, loans and savings companies thrived rapidly as a result of the interest rates they offer their clients. But most of these companies, which were established with the blessings of clerics, have become bankrupt quickly.

Visit of Turkmenistan's Niyazov Reported

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2605144794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 26 May 94

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, heading a high-ranking delegation, arrived in Mashhad this morning to meet the president of Turkmenistan. [passage omitted] During a meeting held at midday today, the two countries' presidents and their delegations met and reviewed ways of expanding ties and cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan in the fields of transport, customs, banking, growth of commercial transactions, provision of facilities for goods transit, and cross border visits by the two countries' citizens. [video shows arrival and meeting with Saparmurad Niyazov]

During these talks, referring to the large and well-equipped Razavi commercial center currently under construction in Sarakhs, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that when this trade center opens, the volume of transactions would increase between the merchants in both countries, among other neighboring countries and the rest of the region.

Niyazov too, during his remarks, in part referring to the growing volume of trade between the two countries, agreed with the export of cotton from Turkmenistan to Iran. In another part of his remarks, referring to the policy to expand road and railway networks between the two countries, Niyazov added: Good progress is made in the feasibility study phase of the project to transport Turkmenistan gas to Europe via Iran.

It is worth mentioning that at the conclusion of the talks between the presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan it was agreed that ministers and expert teams from the two countries should study and investigate ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation and should inform their respective presidents on the outcome of their discussions.

Inaugurates Mashhad Consulate

LD2605185794 Tehran IRNA in English 1837 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan) May 26, IRNA—The presidents of Iran and Turkmenistan inaugurated the Turkmen consulate here Thursday.

The visiting Turkmen president, Saparmurad Niyazov, lauded the development saying that due to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's personal efforts, relations between Iran and his country have seen a steady progress.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani, too, was also pleased about the inauguration of the Turkmen consulate here and said both countries place an emphasis on their mutual relations.

A group of cabinet ministers of both countries were present at the inaugural ceremonies. The Islamic Republic opened its consulate in Marv of Turkmenistan earlier this year.

Joint Communique Issued

LD2605201494 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Following today's meeting between the presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan, a joint communique was issued this evening. Part of the communique says: The presidents of the two countries held negotiations in a climate full of friendship, fraternity, and understanding, which is indicative of the good neighborly relations between the two countries. They exchanged views on political, economic, and cultural issues of mutual interest. Both sides have expressed their satisfaction at the agreements reached.

Cooperation in the oil and gas sector was high on the agenda of these talks. Both sides emphasized their support for the implementation of the project to transport gas from Turkmenistan to Europe via the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Both sides regarded cooperation in the field of transport as the main axis for the expansion of economic and trade relations between the countries. Expressing happiness at

the move toward implementation of the Mashhad-Sarakhs railway line and the roads linking Quchan-Imamqoli, Dar-e Gaz-Imamqoli-Bajgiran, and Artiq-Lotfabad, the two sides called for the speeding up and completion of these projects.

Both sides also stressed the need to activate banking relations, establish agency [kargozary] relations, and to inaugurate a special account [hesab-e makhsus].

Mr. Niyazov further thanked the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the warm welcome accorded to him. He invited Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Turkmenistan. The invitation was warmly accepted.

Pakistan

Bhutto on Counterproposals to Nuclear Inspection Plan

BK2705035294 Hong Kong AFP in English 1913 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Islamabad, May 26 (AFP)—Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Thursday [26 May] her country had put forward counter-proposals to a US plan for non-intrusive inspections of Pakistan's nuclear installations. The counter-proposal was passed on to Washington by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, who is in the United States on a private visit, she said at a press conference following her return from a three-day visit to Nepal.

"We are using this occasion to have informal talks" with US leaders and explain Pakistan's position following US Under Secretary of State Strobe Talbott's trip to Islamabad in April, she added. Bhutto did not elaborate on the contents of the counter-proposals.

Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said last week that Washington had proposed a "non-intrusive" inspection of Pakistan's nuclear plants to verify that Islamabad was not producing nuclear weapons. He added that Pakistan was prepared to consider non-physical verification of its programme. The US proposals followed Talbott's talks on the nuclear issue with Pakistani leaders, when the two sides agreed to pursue a policy of "quiet diplomacy" to improve bilateral relations.

President Leghari, who in United States to attend his son's graduation, held talks with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and met Vice President Al Gore, while officials of the two countries Thursday began two days of talks in Washington.

Pakistan's controversial nuclear programme has caused strain between Washington and Islamabad, with the United States in 1990 cut off more than 500 million dollars worth of military and economic assistance to Pakistan. Washington also stopped delivery of 38 F-16 jets, following reports that Pakistan was pursuing a weapons-oriented nuclear programme, a charge which Islamabad has denied.

In April Washington asked Islamabad to agree to a "verifiable cap" on production of missile materials in exchange for a one-time waiver of the embargo imposed against it under the 1990 Pressler Amendment. Although the proposal was discussed during Talbott's visit, no immediate agreement was reported.

Bhutto said she wanted to see an improvement in relations between the two nations, adding that she wanted to visit the United States later this year. Pakistan shared with the US its concern over nuclear non-proliferation, she said, but added that she saw the Pressler Amendment as a "veto" in the hands of Pakistan's traditional rival, India. She said India applied this veto "on every single proposal made by Pakistan for regional non-proliferation."

Islamabad wants a "non-discriminatory" application of the legislation, forced India, which exploded a nuclear device 20 years ago, to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. "If Pakistan and the US are to proceed on a common goal of non- proliferation in the region, then it is important that the Indian veto through Pressler be removed or waived," she stressed.

President Leghari Continues U.S. Visit

Discusses Nuclear Issue, Kashmir

BK2705044694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The president, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has said the Pressler Amendment plays highly discriminatory and harsh sanctions against Pakistan while the Indian missile program was posing security threat to the South Asian region. He was speaking at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington. During the intense session, the president made a comprehensive presentation of a wide range of political, economic, and strategic issues involving Pakistan-U.S. relations. He, however, emphasized that relations between the two countries should not be allowed to become hostage to the Pressler Amendement. Speaking of nuclear nonproliferation, the president said Pakistan cannot sign the treaty unilaterally in the face of security threat posed by India's military build up in the region and its hegemonic ambition. President Leghari dilated in detail on the Kashmir issue and highlighted the human rights violations being committed by Indian troops in the held valley. The president earlier had a similar meeting with the House Foreign Relations Committee headed by Mr. Lee Hamilton.

Addressing the influential Middle East Forum of the Council of Foreign Relations, the president said the threat to regional and global peace arises from the Kashmir dispute, New Delhi's arms build up against Pakistan, and India's pursuit of a nuclear weapons and

missile program. He said security in South Asia will improve dramatically if the core issue of Kashmir is resolved peacefully. On Afghanistan, the president said Pakistan sided with the Afghan resistance at a great cost and peril to itself. Thus it contributed in small measure to the demise of the cold war.

Comments on Washington Talks

BK2705030594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari arrived in New York from Washington. He is accompanied by Punjab Chief Minister Mian Manzur Watoo and Dr. Maliha Lodhi, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States. Before his departure, the president said that despite being on a private visit, he utilized the opportunity and exchanged views with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other U.S. leaders on matters of mutual interest. The president said that he told the U.S. leaders during his visit that Pakistan wants the United States to help resolve the Kashmir issue and end grave violations of human rights in occupied Kashmir. The United States was urged to cooperate in arms control and nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia and to help accelerate economic development to bring about prosperity in the region. Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said that we want to enhance cooperation with the United States in various sectors on the basis of equality and nondiscrimination.

Warns of Regional Instability

BK2705072494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said that Pakistan and India can live in an atmosphere of complete peace and harmony if the Kashmir issue is resolved. Addressing a dinner hosted by the Association of Pakistan Professionals in New York last night, he said the security situation in the South Asian region has further worsened due to the Indian plan to deploy Prithvi missiles. He said that the only target of these missiles is Pakistan and this has aggravated further the tension which has been caused by the Kashmir problem.

President Leghari said that contrary to the India-U.S. secret talks in London, Pakistan's silent diplomacy with the United States is continuing and it is not secret. The diplomacy is aimed at resolving the issue of the Pressler Amendment in the context of the efforts to realize the goal of nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said that Pakistan welcomes all reasonable proposals. It, however, will not accept any unilateral restriction on its peaceful nuclear program. On narcotics control, the president said that the Government of Pakistan has recently taken speedy steps to eradicate the operations of the drug mafia and also enacted stringent laws to root out drug trafficking. On the privatization of the power production projects of [word indistinct], the president said that progress in this regard has been halted due to lack of appropriate legal regulations. He said that the whole process of privatization will be very transparent and in conformity with the law. In future, thermal power production will be entrusted only to the private sector, while the government will take care of hydroelectric power production.

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